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Gay H. H. H.



Columbus and his Son at the Convent Gate.

THE
STORY OF COLUMBUS,

SIMPLIFIED FOR

THE YOUNG FOLKS.

BY

SARAH H. BRADFORD,

AUTHOR OF THE "SILVER LAKE STORIES," "UPS AND DOWNS," "LEWIE,
OR THE BENDED TWIG," ETC., ETC.

With Illustrations from Original Designs.



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TO THE
CHILDREN WHO MAY READ THIS BOOK.

I COME to you now, dear children, not with a new story, or one which is "made up out of my own head," but with an old story which has been often told—and told most charmingly for older people—but never yet, I believe, has been written on purpose for children.

And I do not pretend, now, that it is prepared for those who can read only words of one, two or three syllables—for you will sometimes find long words—though I think you will not find any hard words, or those of which you will be obliged to ask the meaning.

I have read it as I wrote to a party of children who seemed to understand every word, and to be much interested in the story; and I hope it will be

found interesting and useful by all the children who read it, and that by the example of the great man who is the hero of this story, they may be encouraged to patience and perseverance, and never be prevented by mockery and ridicule from doing what they think is right.

It is but fair to say that this story is principally taken from that delightful history of Columbus written by our distinguished countryman, Washington Irving; for, though I read much on the subject in other books, yet I found that, after all, it was but the same story, and that nowhere else could I find it so well arranged as in his history.

There are many Spanish and Indian names of persons and places which are hard to pronounce, and harder to remember. Of course, it was necessary to retain many of these; but when I could possibly do so without injuring the story, I have left them out.

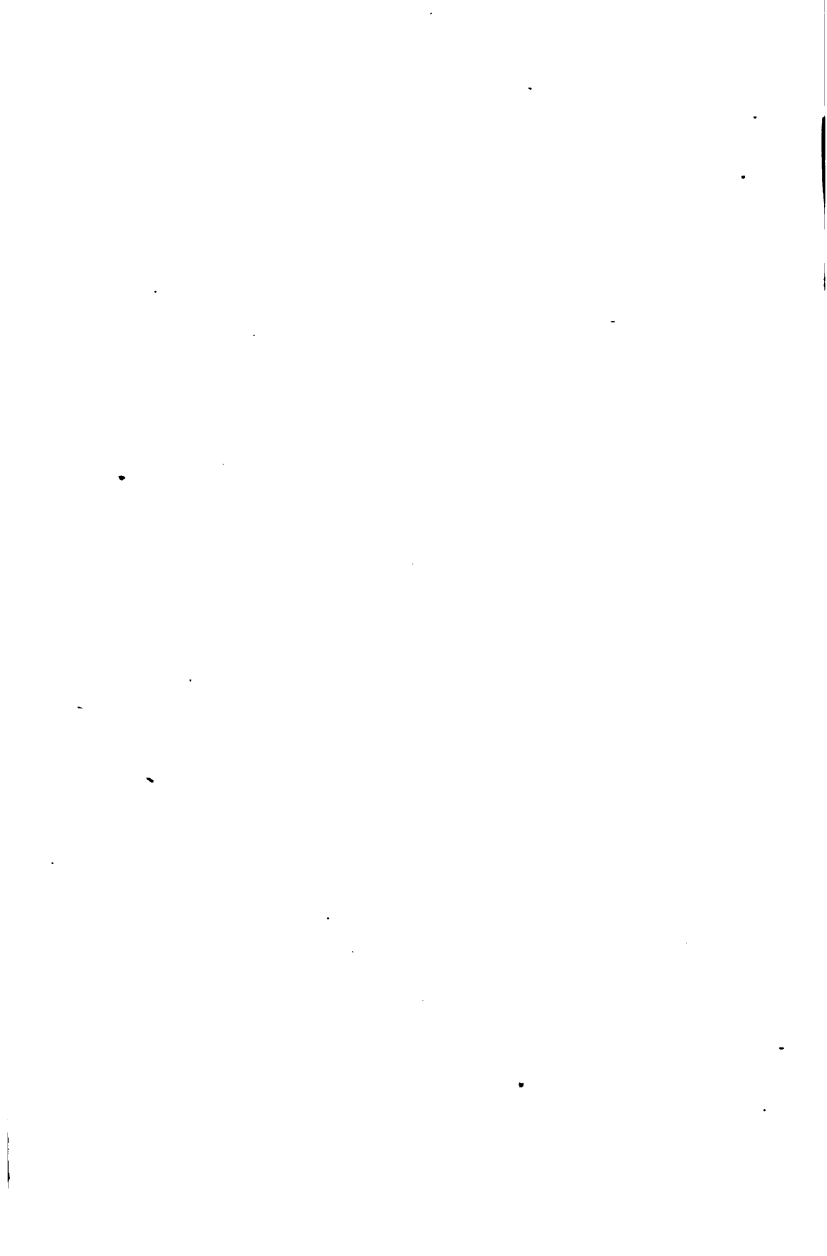
You have before you, in the character of Columbus, an example not only of patience and perseverance such as, I think, no mere man has ever displayed before or since; but of kindness, nobleness, generosity, dutiful affection, faithfulness to friends, forgiveness of enemies, and control of temper, all softened by strong religious feeling. Where will

you find in any one man so many virtues as clustered in the character of Columbus?

His one error—and where is the man without one! —the desire of selling the Indian prisoners as slaves, was the fault of his time and of the circumstances by which he was surrounded; and even against this he seems to have struggled, after all, and to have been driven to it almost of necessity. Had he lived in these *more enlightened* times, we think we should not have even this blot to record upon the character of *Columbus*.

S. H. B.

GENEVA, May 1st, 1856.



I sing the mariner who first unfurled
An eastern banner o'er the western world,
And taught mankind where future empires lay
In these fair confines of descending day.

* * * * *

Slaves, kings, adventurers envious of his name,
Enjoyed his labors and purloined his fame ;
And gave the Viceroy from his high seat hurled
Chains for a crown—a prison for a world.

BARLOW'S COLUMBIAD.



CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

Ideas of people four hundred years ago as to the shape of the Earth—
Parentage and early History of Columbus—Education—Sea Adven-
tures 15

CHAPTER II.

The Trade with India four hundred years ago—Discoveries made by
the Portuguese—Character of Columbus—His Marriage—His ideas as
to the shape of the Earth—His Mistakes 21

CHAPTER III.

Tokens from a Western Land—Trials of Patience—Visits from Court to
Court—Application to King John of Portugal—The Wise Men of King
John—Their Meanness—A Failure—The Wanderer at the Convent
Gate—Friar Juan Perez—Application to the King and Queen of Spain
—What the Wise Men of Spain said—Hopes and Disappointments 26

CHAPTER IV.

The Old Convent again—Friar Juan Perez visits the Court at Santa Fe
—Columbus sent for by the Queen—Isabella undertakes the Expedi-
tion—Columbus recalled 37

CHAPTER V.

Orders for a Fleet to be made ready—Palos—The brothers Pinzon engage
in the Expedition—Difficulty in persuading Men to go—The Santa

Maria—The Pinta—The Niña—The Departure—Grief at Palos—Events of the Voyage—Hopes and Signs of Land—Deceptions—Discontentment among the Crew—Plan for throwing the Admiral overboard 49

CHAPTER VI.

Land Ahead!—Disappointments—Murmurs—Land Indeed—A Light Discovered—A Welcome Shore 53

CHAPTER VII.

The Landing—San Salvador—Wonder of the Natives—Wonder of the Spaniards—Gold Ornaments—Islands of Bahama Group—Charming Scenes—Cuba—"A Tobacco"—Desertion of the Pinta—The "One-Eyed People"—Hayti 57

CHAPTER VIII.

Capture of an Indian Girl—She is set at Liberty—A Visit to the Village—Nine Men put Two Thousand to Flight—Visit from a young Cacique—Guacanagari—Wreck of the Santa Maria—Horror of the Natives at the Report of a Cannon—A Fortress built from the Wreck . . . 67

CHAPTER IX.

The Pinta still missing—Columbus sails for Spain—"Ship ahoy!"—The Pinta again—Fight with Indians—Mayonabeg—A Tempest—Vows to God and the Virgin—The Package in the Cask—Island of St. Mary's—Attempt to seize Columbus—A Harbor in Portugal 75

CHAPTER X.

Wonder of the People—Visits to the Ships—The Court of King John—Honors paid to Columbus—Mean Proposals of the King's Councillors—Plan adopted by King John—Reception of Columbus at Palos—The Vow performed—Return of the Pinta—Disgrace and Death of Pinson—The Court of Ferdinand and Isabella—Reception of Columbus there 83

CHAPTER XI.

Story of the Egg—Joy throughout the World—Ferdinand's Application to the Pope—Second Expedition of Columbus—Priests—Friar Boyle—Expedition of King John—King John outwitted—Alonso de Ojeda—His Daring Feat—The Second Voyage—The Lost Men . . . 91

CHAPTER XII.

Fight with Indians—Fighting Women—The "Eleven Thousand Virgins"—Porto Rico—What became of the Fortress—Fate of the Garrison—Caonabo, the Carib Cacique—Guacanagari—Catalina—Her escape 99

CHAPTER XIII.

Founding of the City of Isabella—Trouble, Sickness and Disappointment—The "Lord of the Golden House"—Expedition of Ojeda—Wealth of the Golden Mountains—Plot against Columbus—Punishment of Offenders—The Golden Mountains . . . 110

CHAPTER XIV.

Caonabo gathers his Forces for an Attack—Sickness among the Spaniards—Starvation in Prospect—Cavaliers Grinding Corn—Complaints against the Admiral—Disappointments and Deaths—Ojeda sent to St. Thomas—Voyage of Columbus to Cuba—Jamaica—The Natives—The Queen's Garden—Cuba a Continent—The Paper signed . . . 121

CHAPTER XV.

Planting of the Cross—The Speech of the old Indian Chief—He determines to accompany the Admiral to Spain—Another Cacique and his Family prepare to go—Hayti—The Storm—Illness of the Admiral—Don Bartholomew . . . 128

CHAPTER XVI.

Pedro Margerite and his Men—Friar Boyle and Margerite set out for Spain—Treatment of the Natives—Their Revenge—Attack on the Fortress by Caonabo—Repulsed by Ojeda—League of the Caciques—Guacanagari true to the White Men—Caonabo seized by the cunning trick of Ojeda . . . 136

CHAPTER XVII.

Arrival of Supplies from Spain—Slaves sent back—The Caciques prepare to attack the Fortress—Columbus meets and scatters them—The Natives obliged to toil—Their Sufferings—Sad death of the good chief Guacanagari 147

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Enemies of Columbus in Spain—Injustice to him—Aguado sent to the Colony—Slaves sent back by the Queen—Cruelty of Aguado—Nobleness of Columbus—Aguado returns to Spain—Discovery of rich Mines—Caonabo sent to Spain—Dies on the Voyage—Reception of Columbus—Third Expedition 154

CHAPTER XIX.

Third Voyage—A Region of Fire—Sufferings from Heat and Thirst—Trinidad—Discovery of the Continent of America—Sickness of Columbus Reaches Hispaniola—Trouble awaits him—Xaragua—Anacaona, the "Golden Flower of Hayti"—Plot of the Indians—Rebellion of Roldan 167

CHAPTER XX.

Fort Conception besieged by Roldan—Plots against the Life of Don Bartholomew—Roldan departs for Xaragua—Revolt of the Indians of the Plain—Noble Conduct of Mayonabeg—His Sufferings and Imprisonment—Roldan's Deception—Refuses to sail for Spain . . . 178

CHAPTER XXI.

Secret Visit of Alonzo de Ojeda to the Island—Roldan sent to meet him—Ojeda visits Xaragua—Is driven off by Roldan—A Love Story—Moxica seized and hung—The Enemies of Columbus in Spain—Bobadilla—His oppressive Conduct 190

CHAPTER XXII.

Columbus ordered to appear before Bobadilla—He obeys—Is put in Chains—His Brothers imprisoned—Villego—Columbus sent to Spain—

Indignation of the People—Treatment at Court—A new Disappointment—Ovando sent to the Colony—Fourth Expedition of Columbus—Columbus refused Shelter in San Domingo—Fate of his Enemies . 200

CHAPTER XXIII.

Storms—Water-Spout—The Mines—The Cacique Quibian—The Settlement—Diego Mendez visits Quibian as a Spy—Quibian Seized—His Escape—His Attack on the Settlement—Murder of Tristan and his men—Horrors gather round the Spaniards—They abandon the Settlement 218

CHAPTER XXIV.

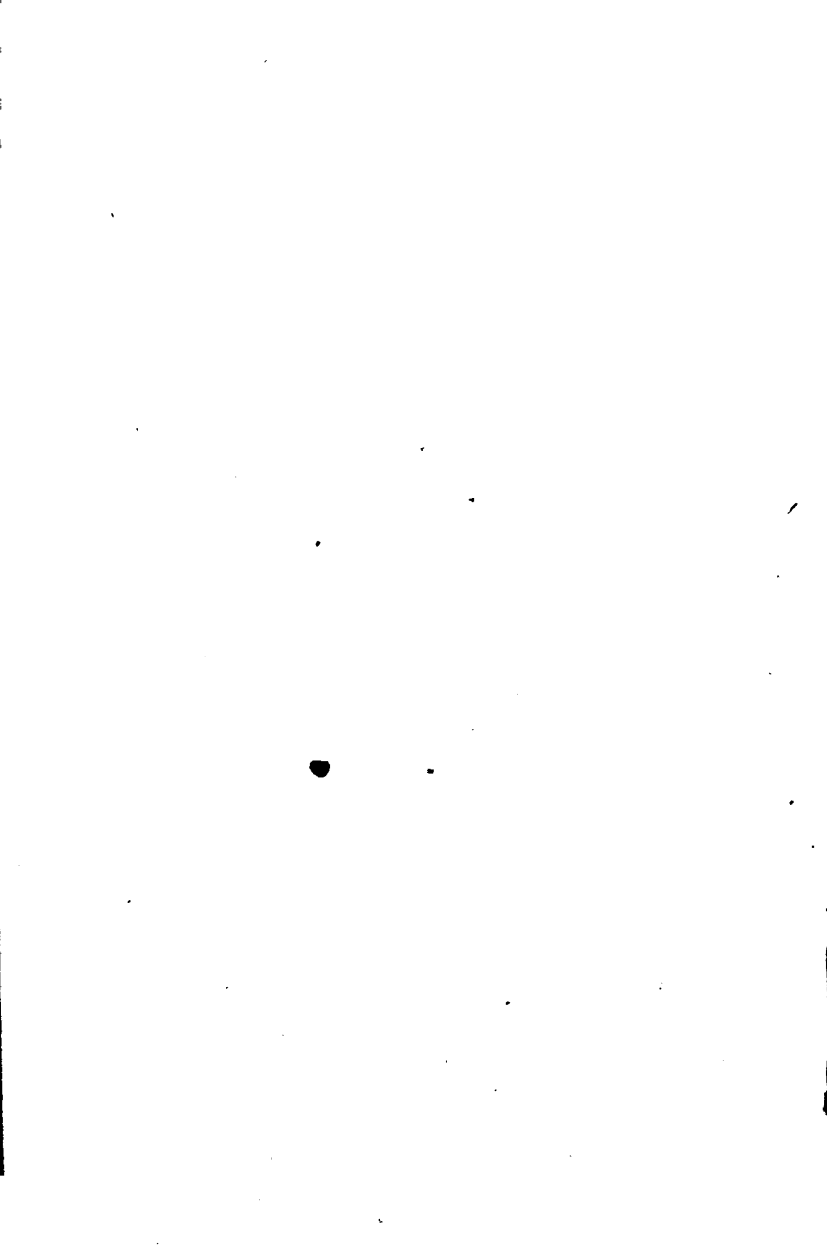
A Harbor in Jamaica—A Fortress in the Sea—How to get away—Expedition of Mendez—Mendez taken prisoner—Starts once more accompanied by Fiesco—Sufferings of those left at the Harbor—Rebellion of Porras—His attempts to reach Hispaniola—The Eclipse and the use made of it by the Admiral 224

CHAPTER XXV.

A strange short Visit to the Harbor—Offer made by Columbus to Porras—Battle between Porras and Don Bartholomew—Voyage of Mendez and Fiesco—Sufferings of the Indians—"La Muerte"—Hispaniola—Journey of Mendez—Efforts for Columbus—Delays—Columbus and his Men brought to Hispaniola—Cruelty of Ovando—Fate of the beautiful Anacaona—The last Voyage of Columbus 234

CHAPTER XXVI.

Poverty of Columbus—Contrasts in his Life—Neglected by Ferdinand—Death of Queen Isabella—Illness of Columbus—His Last Request of the King—Last words and Death 248



THE STORY OF COLUMBUS.

CHAPTER I.

Ideas of people four hundred years ago as to the shape of the earth—
Parentage and early history of Columbus—Education—Sea adventures.

I SUPPOSE you all, children, have a map or an atlas. Just take your map (and you should never read a book with the name of any country, or sea, or place in it without one before you), and turn to the map of the globe. You see there two hemispheres, or half globes, the eastern and the western. Now, though it is necessary on a map or atlas to make these flat, yet you and I know that the earth is actually round like a ball or an orange.

But do you know that about four hundred years ago, the people in the eastern hemisphere supposed that there were no countries in this world besides Europe, Asia, and Africa?

They supposed, too, that the earth was flat, as it appears on the map. They saw the great ocean stretching away till it seemed to meet the sky, and they never dreamed that there was a great country like that in which we live, lying far beyond those rolling waves.

One of the great writers of a nation which then knew the most of geography, wrote thus of the ocean :

“It surrounds the bounds of the earth, and all beyond it is unknown. No one has been able to tell anything about it ; it is so difficult to cross ; it is so deep, so dark, and is tossed by such terrible tempests. It has mighty fishes, and strong winds ; yet there are many islands in it, some of which are inhabited and some not. There is no sailor who dares to cross its deep waters ; those who sail upon them keep only along its shores, being afraid to leave them. The waves of this ocean are high as mountains, but do not break, for if they broke, no ship could live in them.”

No wonder the ignorant sailors of those days, with their slightly-built vessels, feared to sail far out on this wide, stormy ocean, not knowing whether they should find any other land, or be able to make their way back to their own.

There was one man, however, who took into

his head the idea that these terrible waves might be crossed, and that other lands might be found beyond them. This man was Christopher Columbus. He had the courage to set sail across these dark and stormy waters, and it is the story of his trials, of his disappointments, and of his success, that I am going to tell you.

Look on the map of Europe, children, and find the country of Italy. In the northern part of it, on the gulf of Genoa, you will find a city of the same name.

In this city of Genoa, in the year of our Lord, 1435, or a little more than four hundred years ago, CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS was born. His father was a wool-comber, and his ancestors, by which I mean his grandfather, great-grandfather, &c., had for many, many years gained their living by the same trade.

If Columbus had never been a great man, no one would have cared whether his ancestors had been wool-combers, or anything else, but after he became famous, and his name became well known, several great and noble families tried to lay claim to him, or to prove that he belonged to them. By which we see that the world four hundred years ago was very like the world at the present time. Fernando, the son of Columbus, said, however,

that "he would rather be the son of such a father, than to belong to the richest and noblest families in the kingdom."

And I think, before we get through with Columbus, you will all agree with him.

While very young, Columbus was taught reading, writing, grammar, and arithmetic, and learned also to draw. A grand education this, for those times. He soon showed a great love for the study of geography, and a strong desire to go to sea.

His father, seeing how very strong was this desire, tried to give him an education that would fit him to be a sailor. He sent him, therefore, to the University of Pavia (you will see this town not very far north of Genoa), where he was taught all those studies which would fit him to be a good sailor, and particularly the art of navigation, or how to sail a vessel.

He was not able to remain long at this school, but because he was obliged to leave it, he did not think his education finished, but throughout his after life he studied much and hard, even amid his troubles and wanderings, and so he prepared himself to be the great man he afterwards became.

Columbus began to be a sailor at the age of fourteen, and but little is known of his his-

tory at that time. There were pirates upon the seas ; there were quarrels and wars between different nations ; there were dangers on every side for the sailor ; and in this difficult and trying school, Columbus became fitted for his after life of peril and adventure.

There is one anecdote of this part of the life of Columbus, which is told by his son Fernando, and which I will here give you. Columbus sailed for some time with a rover or pirate, of the name of Colombo, a distant relation of his. This man was so famous for his terrible and bloody deeds, that the Moorish mothers used to frighten their children into silence when they were naughty, by the mention of his name.

This bold pirate at one time attacked four vessels from Venice, which were richly laden, and endeavored to take possession of them. They fought bravely, and the battle lasted from morning till evening. Many were killed on both sides. The vessels were at length fastened together by their crews, with grappling irons, and hand to hand they fought. The vessel of which Columbus had the command, was engaged in battle with a huge Venetian ship. Torches and fire-brands were thrown from one to the other, and soon both vessels were wrapped in flames.

There was no escape but by the sea. One by one the sailors plunged into the waves to escape death by fire. Columbus seized an oar, and being a good swimmer, he soon reached the shore, which was full two leagues, or six miles distant.

"It pleased God," said his son, "to preserve him for greater things."

After he had recovered his strength, he went to Lisbon, in Portugal, where he found many of his own countrymen, by whom he was persuaded to remain there, and make that city his home.

CHAPTER II.

The trade with India four hundred years ago—Discoveries made by the Portuguese—Character of Columbus—His marriage—His idea as to the shape of the earth—His mistakes.

CHILDREN, do you know where India or Hindoostan is? If you do not, be sure to look on the map and find it, or you will not understand what I am going to tell you of the different routes by which that land could be reached. India (by which name not only what we call Hindoostan, but the country east of it was then called) was a land of great wealth, and from there were brought many rare and precious things, particularly by the Italians, and sold throughout the countries of Europe. The Italians sailed through the Mediterranean Sea, and from there by a long and expensive journey they reached India, and bought there valuable spices, and other rare and curious things, which they brought back by the same tedious and difficult route.

Now the people of Portugal began to be jealous of the Italian cities, that they had all this rich trade to themselves, and they began to contrive ways and means to have a share in it. There was one Prince Henry of Portugal, who formed the idea that it might be possible to sail around the great country of Africa, and so get to this rich land of India by sea.

It was a bold thing to propose in those days; for do you know the people generally supposed that the equator was a huge belt of fire, which encircled the earth, and through which no one could pass? But about this time people began to study and inquire more, and there were some so bold and fearless as to sail off towards this terrible equator, and find out for themselves whether it could be passed or not.

It was passed safely. No burning belt of fire stopped their way. They sailed around the coast of Africa, and discovered the Cape de Verde and Azore Islands. Prince Henry obtained from the Pope of Rome, who then pretended to own all these countries, the right for the King of Portugal to reign over all lands discovered by the Portuguese in the Atlantic, or other oceans, including India.

Great was the wonder throughout the world at these discoveries made by the people of

Portugal, and wise and learned men came in great numbers to Lisbon, to set out from there in some of the ships which were constantly fitting out from that port bound on voyages of discovery. Among the rest, as I have told you, came Columbus, in the year 1470. He is said to have been a tall and handsome man, and his whole appearance was that of a man formed to rule and command. His hair, in his youth, was of a light color, but his life was one of so much trouble, that it turned grey very soon, and by the time he was thirty years old, it was perfectly white.

He was naturally quick tempered, but he early learned the rare art of governing his temper; was always gentle and polite, and so amiable and kind that all who knew him well loved him much. Columbus was a true gentleman.

While at Lisbon Columbus married a lady, whose father had been a great sailor for those times. The mother of his wife, seeing how much Columbus was interested in every thing connected with the sea, made him a present of all the charts and journals her husband had kept on his voyages.

These pleased Columbus exceedingly, and were very useful to him, as by them he became acquainted with the routes taken by the Portu-

guese in sailing, and after this he sometimes joined their expeditions to the coast of Guinea. When at home he supported his family by making maps and charts, and though poor himself he gave part of his income to his younger brothers, to assist them in their education ; neither did he forget his old father in Genoa, but took care that in his old age he should not want.

People everywhere now were much excited and interested in the discoveries made by the Portuguese. Stories were told of islands being seen far off in the ocean. The people of the Canary isles in particular, insisted that they often saw a great island with lofty mountains and deep valleys. In search of this island they sailed, but never found it. They had probably been deceived by a bank of clouds such as is often seen lying along the horizon.

Columbus noted and thought deeply of all these things. He had heard of the travels of Marco Polo, who, before that time, had visited a country far east of India. He called it Cathay (now supposed to be China), and told great stories of its wonderful riches, and also of an island he called Cipango, probably Japan. This island was placed by Marco Polo opposite Cathay, far out in the ocean. Wonderful stories were told by him of the

vast wealth of this island, of its gold and its spices, and of the magnificent palaces of its king, the roof of which was covered with plates of gold.

Now all who travelled to these rich countries in search of treasure, took, as I have told you, an eastern route, partly by sea and partly by land; but Columbus, having the idea fixed in his mind that the earth was round, thought he might find a better and nearer way to reach these golden lands by steering directly west, than by following in the track of other sailors—just as you might draw a line round an apple or an orange, one way as well as the other.

In his idea of the shape of the earth, Columbus, as we know, was right; but he supposed it to be much smaller than it really is, and he also supposed that this country of Cathay he was seeking, extended much farther to the east than it really did, and that there was not a vast extent of ocean to sail over before he should reach it. Had it not been for these two mistakes, perhaps even Columbus might not have had the courage to set sail across the unknown waters; and in that case he would have lost the honor of giving a new continent to the world.

CHAPTER III.

Tokens from a western land—Trials of patience—Visits from court to court—Application to King John of Portugal—The Wise Men of King John—Their meanness—A failure—The wanderer at the convent gate—Friar Juan Perez—Application to the king and queen of Spain—What the Wise Men of Spain said—Hopes and disappointments.

COLUMBUS, who never for a moment seemed to forget his great idea, kept constantly on the watch for information from old sailors, and from the inhabitants of newly discovered islands. Now came stories to his ear from those who had sailed westward, of signs of land in that direction; now of islands distinctly seen; now of pieces of wood curiously carved, and not with an instrument of iron either; and now, more wonderful than all, of the bodies of two dead men, of strange and unknown features, wafted by the west winds, and thrown on the shores of the Azore islands.

All these things made Columbus feel more and more sure, that, by sailing towards the west, he should find land, and from this time

he spoke of this distant and unknown land, with as much certainty as if he had actually seen it with his own eyes.

Years passed away ; and what was Columbus doing, that he had not yet set sail for these rich and distant shores ? He was travelling patiently from country to country, and from king to king, begging for ships, and men, and money, with which to start upon his voyage. He was now poor, and in debt, and friendless, for so much was his mind taken up with this great idea, of being the first to take a new route to lands on the other side of the globe, that he had allowed his own affairs to go to ruin.

It was necessary that he should have the assistance of some powerful king, who would help him with ships and money, who would claim for his own country any lands Columbus might discover, and give Columbus the right to rule over it. And what he asked was very little for a powerful king to give ; only two or three ships, a few men, and a small amount of money ; and if they had only known it, what he offered in return was a world.

But, as he wandered poor and unfriended, and sometimes begging his way from court to court, he was looked upon by some as foolish, by others as crazy, and one after another

turned a deaf ear to his proposal, and ridiculed his plans. Were a poor man to come along now, begging for money with which to build a huge balloon to carry a number of men to the moon, or to cruise about in search of unknown stars, it may be that we should look upon him much as these people four hundred years ago, looked upon Columbus.

The first person of influence and power, who listened to him with interest and attention, was John II., King of Portugal. To him Columbus told his story; gave him all his reasons for supposing he might reach those far famed eastern lands by a western route, and begged of him ships, and men, with which to start upon his voyage.

King John listened attentively to Columbus, and it may be that if he had listened only to his own reason, he might have granted his wish. But it was necessary to call his wise and learned men about him, and ask their advice. From them the plans of Columbus met only with sneers and ridicule; and yet they must have thought that possibly there might be some sense in them, for while they kept him waiting week after week, pretending to wish to study his maps and charts, and to get from him a full idea of his plan, they had the meanness to send off secretly and without

the knowledge of Columbus, a vessel to follow the track he intended to take, and see what they could discover.

This vessel started on its way, but storms arose, the waves ran mountain high, the pilot was ignorant, the sailors became frightened, and back they turned, declaring that the plan of Columbus was all folly, and never could be carried out.

It was not long, before Columbus found out the trick that had been played upon him, and as he had a good right to be, he was very angry. He turned his back upon the court of King John, who would then have been glad, it is said, to call him back and talk the matter over again. But Columbus now had no wish to remain in Portugal; his wife was dead, and there being nothing to keep him there, he turned from the country where he had been treated so meanly, and so cruelly, and wandered to other courts and other kings, to tell the same story and make the same request. The motto of Columbus must have been "Try, try again!"

While wandering thus in the hope of accomplishing his great object, he did not forget his old father, at Genoa, but paid him a visit, and poor as he was, did something for his comfort in his old age, and then turned his face

towards Spain, hoping that Ferdinand and Isabella, the king and queen of that country, might be persuaded to listen to his proposal, and grant him the aid he so much wished. On foot, and leading his little son Diego by the hand, he travelled from Italy to Spain, until at length he reached the little town of Palos, a seaport on the coast of Spain.

Not far from Palos, on a lonely height of land overlooking the sea, and surrounded by a forest of pine trees, stood at that day, and I believe stands still, the convent of Santa Maria de Rabida. One day a poor and weary traveller, leading by the hand a little boy, stopped at the gate of the convent, to beg for a little bread and a drink of water.

While he was eating this simple food, one of the fathers of the convent, who was called Friar Juan Perez de Marchena, happening to pass by, noticed this stranger, and seeing at once that he was no ordinary beggar, he stopped to converse with him. This weary wanderer was Christopher Columbus.

Friar Juan Perez was a different sort of man from the wise men of King John. He was a kind and noble man, as well as a learned one; he continued the firm and faithful friend of Columbus, and it was through him, after many delays and disappointments, that Colum-

bus at length gained admittance to Queen Isabella of Spain.

But these delays were long and tedious; sometimes he would be listened to, and a ray of hope would shine into his heart, and again he was frowned upon. Spain was then engaged in war with the Moors of Granada, and the king and queen had little time to listen to a stranger's plans for discovery. Sometimes he was ridiculed and mocked by the gay gentlemen of the court; a poor man in mean clothing come to offer to show a new way to lands of wealth, or to lead in the discovery of countries and islands yet unknown.

At length, however, some men of thought and influence gave attention to his story—among others, the tutor to the children of Ferdinand and Isabella, by whom he was introduced to the Cardinal of Spain, a man of such influence with the king and queen, that he was sometimes called in jest, the *third king of Spain*. He was a man of great learning, and was much pleased with the sincere and earnest air with which Columbus urged his cause. He became at once a strong and useful friend to him, and by him Columbus was brought into the presence of the king.

Ferdinand listened and thought; but, he was too cool and prudent to act with haste;

he therefore gave orders that many of the wise and learned men of the kingdom should meet together in the city of Salamanca, to examine Columbus as to all his plans; to consult together, and then to write out and send to the king their opinion on the subject.

Columbus now felt sure that at last his hopes were to meet with success, and we can imagine that he went to Salamanca in high spirits and full of hope. He was not now to be mocked by the ignorant and vulgar, but he was to have an opportunity of laying his plans before wise and learned men, who had thought and studied into all these subjects, and who would understand him when he spoke. We shall see how much he was mistaken in his opinion of these men.

They met in the hall of an old convent in Salamanca. Again, before these learned men, Columbus went over the whole matter, telling them his reasons for supposing the earth to be round instead of flat, and for thinking that if he sailed directly west, he must meet with lands, which others found in sailing east.

But here he was stopped at once, and met by passages from the Bible, which these very wise men supposed entirely contradicted the ideas of Columbus.



Columbus explaining his Theory.

One of these learned men asked "if it was *possible* any one could be so silly as to think there were people whose feet were turned towards our feet? If they could possibly believe that there was another side to the earth, where people walk with their feet up and their heads down; where all things are topsy turvy; where trees grow with their roots up and their branches down, and it rains, hails and snows upwards. All this nonsense," he said, "came from this new notion of the earth being round; but when people once took an absurd idea into their heads, they seemed to think it necessary to go on, and bring forward other absurd ideas to support it."

No doubt this man thought that he knew more than any one else could ever know, and looked down upon the simple sailor standing before him, as a foolish boaster, who thought that he could do great things, and who must be put down at once.

Another of these wise men said that if there *were* people on the other side of the earth, they could not possibly have descended from Adam, for how could they get across the ocean to settle in those countries? And the Bible said all men came from Adam.

Another (and he must have been a *very*

wise one), gave it as his opinion that even if they should reach India, they would have to remain there always; for, if the earth was round, as this foolish Columbus thought, it would be like a mountain, and even with the strongest wind, they could not sail *up hill* to get back again.

The youngest child in any of our district schools knows more on these subjects than these learned men did then; but before, in our superior wisdom, we ridicule their ignorance, we must remember how little opportunity they had in those days to learn much of these things. Columbus was one of the men who are *before their time*—by which I mean he thought more, and studied more, into the reasons of the things he saw around him, than other men; and while they ridiculed him as foolish, he could see that it was only because they were not wise enough to understand him.

All their arguments Columbus answered—and he, too, brought passages and texts of Scripture, which, as he supposed, had reference to the discoveries he hoped to make. A few of those who listened to him were honest and frank enough to confess that they believed Columbus to be right; but they found it impossible to bring the greater number to

agree with them. Many times they met and talked over these subjects, but without any result, and at length they broke up, and left the matter just where they found it.

More long years passed away. Columbus still followed the court, which moved from place to place; the sovereigns of Spain being engaged in wars, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another. Columbus, however, was not idly waiting to bring his cause before the king and queen; he was too active a man for that, and engaged with zeal in the different battles, fighting for the king of Spain.

His favorite object, however, never was forgotten. Whenever there was an opportunity, or a little rest from fighting, there was this patient and persevering Columbus again with the same old demand.

At length, while the court were at Seville, Columbus presented himself once more, and begged earnestly for a final reply. More meetings and consultations were held, and the result at last was made known to Columbus.

It was this: the expenses of the war were so great, that the king and queen could not undertake to spend any more money in fitting out ships, and thought it best not to engage in any new plans for the present. When they

had time and means, they would perhaps listen to him.

And was this to be the result of all his weary, patient waiting? Disappointed and vexed, with a sad and troubled heart, he turned his back upon Seville, but never for a moment thought of abandoning his cherished plan.

To other men of wealth and influence he applied, and after having his hopes again raised, only to be again disappointed, he determined to bid adieu to Spain, and make his way to Paris. It was necessary first, however, to go to Palos, and take his son Diego from the convent there, and leave him with his other son, Fernando, at Cordova.

CHAPTER IV.

The Old Convent again—Friar Juan Perez visits the Court at Santa Fe
—Columbus sent for by the Queen—Isabella undertakes the Expedition—Columbus recalled.

SEVEN years had passed since Columbus first paused there to rest his weary feet, and ask for food and water, when again he stood before the gate of the old Convent of Santa Maria. His sad air, and the poverty of his appearance, showed that he had gained nothing in all that time, and the kind Father, Juan Perez, who had from the first been his warm friend, was grieved to the heart to see him looking so poor and sad.

But when he heard from Columbus that he was about to leave Spain, and apply to some other country and king for aid to carry out his plans, he could not bear the thought, and begged him to wait till he could make one more effort for him. He felt certain that if Columbus only had the means, he would be

successful in his undertaking ; and he longed that his own country should have the honor of these discoveries, and become the owner of the lands Columbus might bring to their knowledge.

Friar Juan Perez had been Confessor to the Queen, and felt quite sure that she would listen to a request from him. He therefore wrote her an earnest and beseeching letter, which he sent by the hands of a trusty man, to the Queen, who was in the camp at Santa Fe, before Granada.

In fourteen days the messenger returned, bringing a kind answer from Queen Isabella, and a request that the friar should come to the court immediately. That very night the good friar mounted his mule, and set out for the camp. He was admitted to the presence of the queen as soon as he arrived. She heard him kindly while he urged upon her the claims of Columbus ; and before he left her she gave him money, and told him to send Columbus to her, and to see that he was furnished with a mule, and with suitable clothing.

Again Columbus set out for the Spanish camp, where he arrived just in time to see the victory of the Spaniards over the Moors of Granada, and to see the keys of the city given up to Ferdinand and Isabella.

The time had now come when the king and queen had promised to listen to Columbus, and they kept their word. But again difficulties arose; those who were appointed to talk over matters with Columbus, thought he asked entirely too much in case he was successful. They said he had everything to gain, and nothing to lose; that he asked for money, and gave nothing himself, and then demanded a large portion of the profits, and that great power should be placed in his hands.

Columbus then offered to pay one-eighth of the cost, if they would promise to give him one-eighth of the profits. This was offered him, it is supposed, by one of the Pinzons, wealthy friends of Columbus, who, as you will see, went with him upon his voyage. All these offers of Columbus were rejected, however, and, again disappointed, he determined to leave Spain forever, and mounting his mule he left Santa Fe, intending to set out at once for France.

We cannot but admire the wonderful patience and perseverance, with which this noble man for eighteen long years, waited, and labored, and suffered, in the cause so dear to him. In the midst of poverty, and mockery, and disappointment, he held on, and now, though he might only expect the same treat-

ment in any other court, he determined still to make the trial, and would probably have never given up, till the pulses of his great heart ceased to beat.

But he left behind him a few warm friends in Santa Fe, who were not willing to let the matter rest thus. Once more they went to Queen Isabella, and with great earnestness begged her not to lose this opportunity of gaining rich possessions, and of extending her religion over other lands. Isabella hesitated a moment, and then said :

“It shall be done ; and I will pledge my own jewels, to raise the necessary funds.”

Slowly and sadly, Columbus was proceeding on his lonely journey across the plain of Granada, and had just reached the bridge of Pinos, when a messenger came after him in all haste, bidding him return. The queen had taken up his cause, and made it her own ; he should have money, and ships, and men ; the great wish of his life, for which he had toiled and labored, was about to be granted.

With joy he turned the reins of his mule, and hastened back to Santa Fe, to meet the kind and noble princess. She received him with great kindness, agreed to all his demands, and promised him the aid he needed. The agreement made between them was this :

That Columbus should be high-admiral and viceroy, or governor under the king, of all the seas, islands, and continents, he might discover, and that he should receive one-tenth of all the profits which should arise from the productions of those lands, and from the trade in any articles of value which might be found there. These offices and these profits were also to descend to his children, and their descendants.

And now at last, after eighteen years of patient waiting, after his many trials and disappointments, the perseverance of Columbus was to be rewarded. With what a happy heart must he have taken his way once more to Palos, not now a poor and needy traveller, begging for food, but the commander of an expedition sent by the Sovereigns of Spain, on a voyage of discovery in unknown seas!

CHAPTER V.

Orders for a Fleet to be made ready—Palos—The brothers Pinzon engage in the Expedition—Difficulty in persuading Men to go—The Santa Maria—The Pinta—The Niña—The Departure—Grief at Palos—Events of the Voyage—Hopes and Signs of Land—Deceptions—Discontentment among the Crew—Plan for throwing the Admiral overboard.

COLUMBUS was a rigid papist, and one of the objects he had in view, was the spread of that religion in the continent he might discover. In this object also Queen Isabella was deeply interested. She hoped to be the means of the conversion of the Grand Khan of Tartary, which she supposed would be one of the first countries Columbus would reach, and actually gave him letters to that powerful king.

As a punishment for some offence against the government, the town of Palos was ordered to furnish two caravals or light coasting vessels, for the service of the king and queen. These were ordered to be supplied with crews, and everything necessary for a long voyage,

and a year's absence, and to be placed under the command of Columbus.

They were ordered to be ready for sea in ten days; but when this order was read to the people in some public place, you cannot imagine with what fright and horror it was heard. All the terrors they had ever heard of that wide and dangerous ocean, came to their minds, and were repeated from one to the other, and so great was their fear that neither threats nor promises could induce them to set sail with Columbus.

But now the two brothers of the name of Pinzon, of whom I have spoken as men of wealth, who had offered to give Columbus one eighth of the money necessary for his outfit, came forward, and declared that they would not only furnish and provide with sailors two vessels, but would themselves accompany Columbus upon the expedition.

This had a great effect on others. Many of their relatives and friends now determined to join them, and in less than a month the vessels were ready for sea. There was also a third vessel called "The Pinta," which with its crew had been ordered to join them. The men who owned the vessel were not willing to risk it for such a long voyage, and the sailors were afraid to go.

They therefore did everything they could to prevent the vessels from sailing. Those who were preparing "The Pinta" for sea, did their work so badly, that they were ordered to do it over again ; then they ran away, and several others followed their example.

But at length everything was ready, and on the third day of August, 1492, the little fleet set sail, and Columbus with a joyful heart saw the shores of Spain fade in the distance, while the wide sea over which he had so often cast a longing eye, was all before him. This must have been a glad moment in the life of Columbus.

As I have told you there were three vessels in this little fleet. The flag of Columbus waved upon the deck of the "Santa Maria," of which he was the commander; this was the only one of the three vessels, that had a complete deck from fore to stern. The others had cabins at the fore and stern for the crew, but no deck in the centre. They were slightly built, and by no means fitted to encounter the fierce winds and stormy waves, of the Atlantic.

"The Pinta" was commanded by Martin Alonzo Pinzon, who took his brother Francisco with him as pilot; and the third vessel, the "Niña" was commanded by a third Pinzon,



The Departure from Palos.



by name, Vicente Yañoz. The whole number of persons who set sail in the three vessels, was one hundred and twenty.

Deep grief reigned in the little town of Palos, for almost every one had some friend or relative on board one of these little vessels. With streaming eyes they saw them depart, and watched them till the white sails could no longer be seen in the distance, and then turned to their homes with the feeling fixed in their hearts, that they had looked their last upon the faces of their friends.

But three days had they sailed, when a signal of distress from the *Pinta*, made it necessary for them to pause, and attend to her condition. Her rudder hung loose and broken, and was no longer of use. This was probably contrived by her owners, who were so much opposed to her going upon the voyage; she proved to be in other ways unfit for sea, and they were obliged to put into the Canary Islands, and seek for another vessel to supply her place. None could be found, however, and, after fitting a new rudder to the *Pinta*, and repairing her as well as they could, the little fleet again put to sea.

It seemed as if everything was against them, however, for now the wind died away, and for three days there was a dead calm, and

the vessels remained motionless within a short distance of the land. All these delays troubled Columbus, for he feared that these difficulties in the outset, might cause fear and anxiety to spread among the sailors, and make it difficult to keep them in order.

At length, on Sunday the 9th of September, a pleasant breeze sprang up ; the vessels were wafted on their way, and soon the shores of the Canary Islands were lost in the distance, and only sea and sky were around and above them. Now the hearts of the sailors failed them, for they seemed to have bid adieu forever to home, and family, and friends, and all before them was unknown. Tears streamed down the cheeks of the sailors, and some of them burst into loud cries of wailing.

Columbus went from one to another, trying to soothe and encourage them. He talked to them of the rich and beautiful countries he hoped soon to reach, and promised them land, and wealth, and all their hearts might desire. But every change in the appearance of the sea alarmed them ; now they were afraid land would never be reached, and again when they thought they perceived signs of land, they were in terror lest they should strike upon sunken rocks and go to the bottom. They feared, if there were signs of a storm, that

their vessels would be wrecked; and they feared in a calm, that they might be obliged to remain there forever, and perish in stagnant waters.

It must have been hard indeed, to deal with so fearful and faint-hearted a crew. They were many of them forced to sail upon the expedition; they had no love for it, as Columbus had; no hope like his to cheer them on. They thought of their homes with sadness and regret, and looked forward to the deep, dark ocean before them, with fear and dread. Had their leader once sailed upon these seas himself, so that he could speak to them with certainty of what was before them, and explain to them from his own knowledge, the new and strange appearances which met their eyes, they might very likely have had more confidence in him, but now they knew that though he looked calm, and spoke with certainty of what was before them, yet that in reality, all was as new to him as to them.

But soon they began to feel the influence of the trade-wind, which blow always in the same direction in those seas, and by these they were wafted quickly and pleasantly for many days, on their western way. The weather was mild and lovely, the air pure and soft, and everything seemed bright and pro-

missing, and again the timid sailors took courage.

Now they began to see signs of land, as they supposed, and their hearts were full of hope. Patches of herbs and sea-weed drifted by from the west, on one of which was a live crab. A white bird flew by the vessel, one of a kind which never sleeps upon the sea; other birds followed, and now there was an appearance of clouds in the north, such as are often seen hanging over the land, and in the evening the anxious sailors would gaze at these clouds, and fancy them to be beautiful islands, with mountains, and valleys, and plains.

To steer towards these, would be to leave his western route, and this, Columbus could not be persuaded to do. A handsome reward had been offered by the sovereigns of Spain, to the man who should first discover land, and of course, each of the sailors was anxious to be the one to gain the honor and the prize. This, and their own strong desire that their long voyage should be ended, so sharpened their eyesight, that they constantly saw land where no land was, and the cry of "Land! Land!" was often shouted from one ship and another, keeping the sailors in a state of excitement, and raising hopes only to be disap-

pointed. So faded away those signs of land, and again the men became anxious and gloomy. They were sailing where man had never sailed before ; they saw no signs of land, except such as deceived them, and still they must sail on, with only sea and sky before and around them. No welcome sail gladdened their eye ; no pleasant shout of "Ship ahoy !" sounded upon their ear ; they were alone upon the waters.

Even this favorable wind which bore them on so gently, now brought to them new fears. Perhaps in these seas the wind blew always from the east, and in that case how were they to return ? As if to answer this question, there came now a few light breezes from the west, which cooled their anxiety, and for the time quieted their fears.

And little winged messengers from land came singing round the ships, and sweetly did their notes sound in the ears of those poor sailors, who had been so long away from all sights and sounds of land. These little birds brought them new hope, for it was plain that they could not fly far, and therefore some land must be near.

And now the ocean presented a new and strange appearance. Far as the eye could see it was covered with weeds and sea-plants, and

looked like a vast marshy meadow. Fears of rocks and quick-sands now seized upon the sailors, but, upon sounding the depth of the waters, Columbus could find no bottom, and now they murmured at the calm, and feared no wind would ever sweep over the waters, to waft them from that weedy sea.

With wonderful patience, Columbus reasoned and talked with these fearful and unreasonable men, endeavoring to explain to them all these things, which were as new to him as to them. But the men became every day more gloomy and sullen, and signs began to be shown of an intention to rise against the officers, and take the command of the ships out of their hands.

Gathered in little groups, in secret places in the ship, they talked together with angry and scowling faces, and when ordered to do their duty, they did it slowly and unwillingly. They had sailed long enough, and far enough, they thought, to satisfy even so crazy an adventurer, as the admiral (this was the title of Columbus). What right had he to insist upon their risking their lives longer in unknown seas, for soon they must perish, and none would be left to tell the tale.

It was therefore proposed among them, to seize Columbus, and throw him overboard,

and then give out that he had fallen into the sea, while watching the stars with his instruments. Columbus knew pretty well what was going on among them, but he moved about calm and cool as ever, soothing some, encouraging others, and threatening the most unruly with instant and severe punishment, unless they returned quietly to their duty.

CHAPTER VI.

Land Ahead!—Disappointments—Murmurs—Land Indeed—A Light Discovered—A Welcome Shore.

BUT now came from the deck of the Pinta once more the sudden and joyful cry of "Land ahead!" And, indeed, on looking in the direction pointed out, the signs of land were so distinct, that Columbus fell upon his knees and gave thanks to God, while the sailors joined in a glad hymn of praise.

With joyful hearts they sailed towards what they supposed to be the welcome shore, but alas! they were again deceived; it was but an evening cloud, whose shape altered and disappeared, as they approached it.

On they sailed again, the crew sometimes hoping, sometimes complaining, until at length other signs of land that could not be mistaken, once more aroused and excited the little band. And now the cry of "Land!

Land!" was so continually heard from one and another, that they were told by Columbus that the man who cried "Land!" and it should not be discovered in three days after, should lose all chance of the reward.

And now, on the 7th of October, Columbus had reached the distance at which he expected to find the rich island of Cipango, and the signs of land became more distinct, and small field birds came singing round the vessels. But again, after three days sailing, the sun went down upon a shoreless sea, and the men feeling that they could bear no more, broke out into open clamors, and insisted upon turning back.

Columbus at first used gentle and soothing words, but the men only continuing to scold and murmur, he took a different tone. He told them murmuring was useless; that they were sent out by the sovereigns of Spain, to accomplish a certain object, and come what might, he would never turn back, till he had found the wished-for land.

Alas for Columbus now! for the men were desperate; and short would have been his time, perhaps, but that silent messengers came floating by, which called off the attention of the sailors, and again raised their hopes of soon setting their feet on land. A fish such

as keeps only about rocks, floated by, and told them that some coast was near; a branch of thorn with the berries on it, told of the land on which it grew, and a curiously carved staff let them into the secret, that that land was inhabited.

Now all murmuring ceased, and every eye was strained towards the horizon, in hopes of seeing the wished-for land. That night, after they had sung their evening hymn, Columbus made an address to the crew. He told them he was certain of seeing land that very night, and ordered them to keep a good look out, promising a gay vest of velvet, in addition to the reward of the sovereigns, to him who should first actually gain sight of the expected shore. He bid them notice the goodness of God, in bringing them thus by kind and gentle breezes, across the wide ocean; and in crowning their hopes with success.

Night closed around them, but not an eye among those anxious sailors was closed in sleep. Columbus took his station on the top of the cabin of his vessel, and fixed his eager eye upon the horizon. Though it was necessary, for the sake of those under his command that he should appear cool and calm, and, certain of success when with them, we may be sure that he had passed many an anxious

hour, when alone, or while others were sleeping.

As he stood eagerly watching thus, about ten o'clock at night, he suddenly thought he perceived a light moving in the distance. Not willing to trust his own eye-sight, he called an officer to him, and asked him if he saw a light in that direction.

"I do, Señor," was the answer, and together they watched it for a few moments. It moved up and down, as if it were a torch in the boat of a fisherman, or a light carried in the hand of some person on shore. Now it disappeared and again they saw it once or twice. At two o'clock in the morning, the gun from the *Pinta* gave the glad signal of Land, and this time they were not deceived.

A sailor on board the *Pinta* claimed the reward, but it was afterwards given to Columbus by the sovereigns, as he was the first to discover the light. It seems right, and we cannot but rejoice, that he who had so long beheld this distant land in fancy, should be the first to behold with his own eyes, the signs of its nearness to him, and should have the honor of its discovery all to himself.

Who can imagine the feelings of Columbus at this moment! In spite of mockery and ridicule; in the face of difficulty and danger,

with frail and badly-built vessels, and an unruly crew, he had crossed this much-dreaded ocean ; he had found the hoped-for land. How anxious must he have been to know what coast this might be, which stretched before him. Was it the Cipango he had hoped to reach ? What kind of a race might its inhabitants be ?

Vegetables floated from the shore, telling of its fruitfulness—the air was fragrant with the scent of its groves and flowers. What should he see, and what should he find in the morning ?

CHAPTER VII.

The Landing—San Salvador—Wonder of the Natives—Wonder of the Spaniards—Gold Ornaments—Islands of Bahama Group—Charming Scenes—Cuba—"A Tobacco"—Desertion of the Pinta—The "One-Eyed People"—Hayti.

MORNING dawned at last; and Columbus and his delighted followers saw before them the shores of a level and most beautiful island, fresh and green, and covered with tall and noble trees. Naked, and wild-looking people were running from tree to tree, watching with wonder and fright, the strange-looking objects upon the water, and the beings moving about upon them.

Columbus ordered the men to anchor the ships, and let down the boats. Richly dressed in scarlet, he entered his own boat, and was rowed towards the shore. The commanders of the other vessels also put off in their boats, and from each of the three waved the banner of Spain, bearing the crown, and the initial

letters of the names of Ferdinand and Isabella.

As they neared the shore, they were charmed with all they beheld. The beauty of the forests, the variety of the fruits, the mildness and sweetness of the air, and the clearness of the waters, filled them with delight. Columbus sprang on shore, and falling upon his knees, he kissed the earth, and gave thanks to God with tears. His followers did the same.

Columbus then rose, drew his sword, and took possession of the island in the name of Ferdinand and Isabella. He gave it the name of San Salvador, and this island you will see in the group of the Bahamas, northeast of Cuba. Columbus then called upon all present to take a solemn oath of obedience to him, as admiral, and viceroy, and governor; under the sovereigns of Spain.

There was no murmuring and complaining now, among his followers, but those who had given him the most trouble during the voyage, pressed round him, falling at his feet and humbly begging his pardon; and then embracing him, and kissing his hands, they promised to obey him ever for the future.

At a distance, cautiously watching them from behind the trees, stood the frightened

natives. When, in the morning, they saw the ships moving towards them upon the water, they took them to be huge monsters from the sky, or the deep, whose great white wings had brought them to their shores. And when the small boats left these huge monsters, bringing in them strange-looking beings, in bright steel armor, or in gay clothing, they fled to the woods in terror.

Finding, however, that they were not pursued, and that these new visitors showed no desire to injure them, they came forward, and threw themselves at their feet, as if to worship them. Then with wonder they examined them from head to foot, admiring their rich dress, their beards, and their armor, and paying particular attention to the admiral, whom they took at once to be the chief or leader of this band, by his brilliant dress, and by the manner of the others towards him.

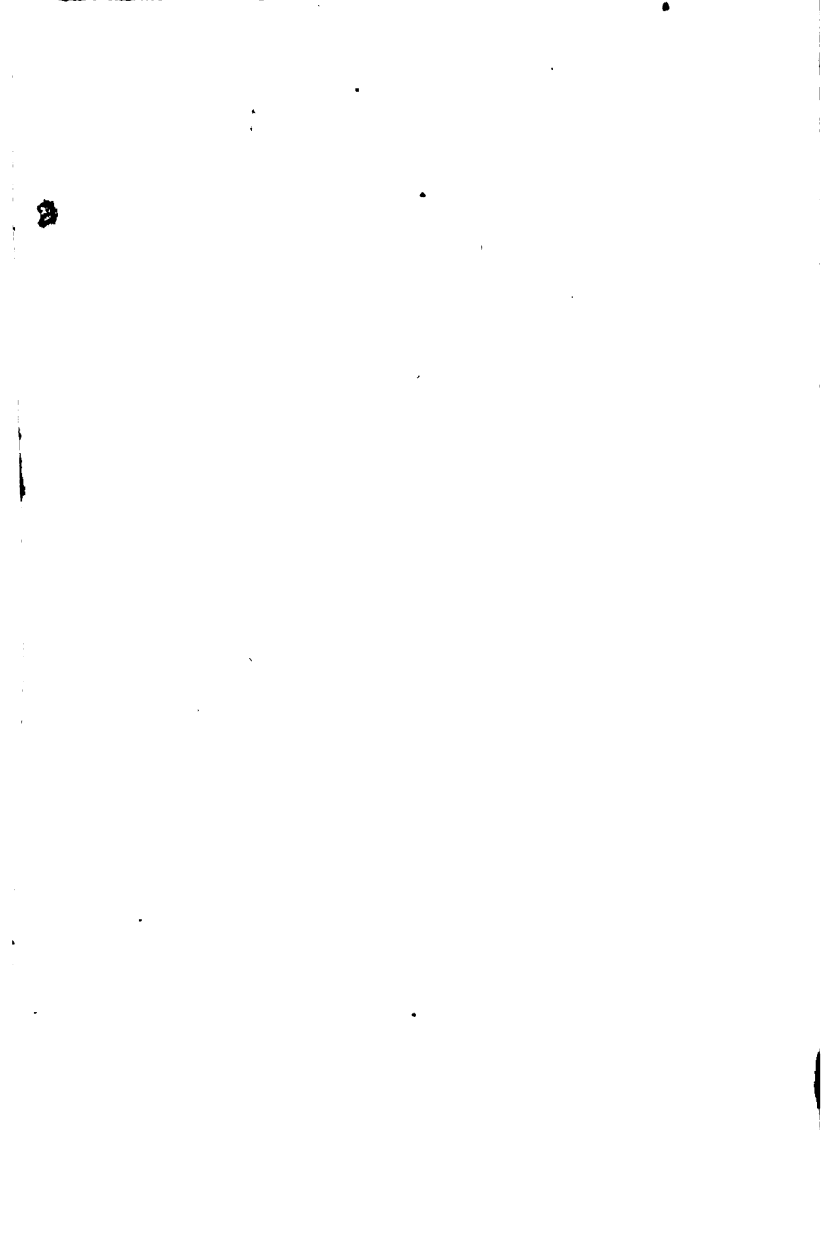
In the meantime, the Spaniards gazed with as much curiosity and wonder, at the natives of the island, who were so different from any beings they had ever seen before. They were entirely naked, of copper-colored complexion, and gaily painted, without beards, and with long, straight, coarse, black hair. There was but one female among them; she was young, and of a beautiful form.

The natives seemed a simple people, kind and friendly; they were armed only with lances, pointed at the end with flint, or the bones of fish. They knew nothing of the use of iron, and when a sword was shown them, they took it by the edge, not knowing that it would cut them. Columbus made them presents of colored caps, glass beads, and hawks' bells, with which they were perfectly delighted, and dressing themselves up in their finery, they were charmed with their own appearance.

The next day, the natives came out in numbers to visit the ships, many of them swimming, and others in their canoes, made of the trunk of a huge tree, hollowed out, some of which would hold forty or fifty men. They seemed not to be a wealthy people, as all they had to give in return for the trinkets Columbus and his men gave them, was cotton yarn, and tame parrots,

The Spaniards, however, noticed with interest, the gold ornaments which were worn in the noses of some of the natives, and immediately asked of them by signs, where this precious metal could be found.

The natives pointed toward the south, and Columbus understood them to say that there was a king there, so rich, that he ate and drank only out of vessels of gold. He sup-





ROBERTS. SC.

The Landing in the new World.

posed this to be the rich island of Cipango ; and that the king who used only golden vessels, must be that great monarch, whose palace was covered with plates of gold.

For this island Columbus now sailed, taking with him seven of the natives, in order to teach them the Spanish language, so that they might act as guides and interpreters, in talking with the natives of these islands.

Supposing he was now upon the eastern coast of Asia, Columbus called these people Indians, and by this name the red men of this continent have ever since been called.

There are several hundred beautiful green islands in the Bahama group ; at a few of which Columbus touched on his way to Cuba. The people looked upon those strangers with the same wonder as did those of San Salvador, and received them with the same simple-hearted kindness. They brought them the finest fruits, and the most beautiful parrots, and when they landed in search of water, these kind natives took them to the clearest streams and freshest springs, and after filling their casks, rolled them to the boats, happy to do anything for these wonderful people, who, as they supposed, had come from the skies to visit them.

Columbus was delighted with all he saw.

"I know not," said he, "where first to go, nor are my eyes ever weary of gazing on the beautiful verdure. The singing of the birds is such that it seems as if one would never desire to depart hence. There are flocks of parrots that obscure the sun, and other birds of many kinds, large and small, entirely different from ours."

Brilliant and beautiful fish sported round the ships, with colors as gay and bright as those of the birds, and scales which flashed like gold and silver, through the waves. No gold or spices, however, were found in these islands. Still the natives pointed to the south as the region of wealth, and told of an island there, called Cuba, which the Spaniards understood them to say, abounded in gold, and pearls, and spices.

This then surely must be the Cipango he was seeking, and again Columbus set sail, and on the 28th of October, anchored off the coast of Cuba. Very beautiful was this island, with its high grand mountains, and peaceful green valleys, its noble forests, and lovely streams. In the sweet smell of the woods, and the fragrance of the flowers, Columbus fancied he perceived the odor of eastern spices, and, as the grass grew to the very edge of the water, he supposed that those seas were always calm,

and that the water never dashed angrily upon the shore. Little did he then know of the terrible storms, and hurricanes, which at some seasons sweep over those seas.

He went on shore to visit the villages, but the natives fled to the mountains in fright. He found their houses neat and clean; they were built of the branches of palm trees, and were more comfortable than any he had yet seen. In sailing along the island, however, he seems to have had interviews with some of the natives, who told him of a country away from the sea-coast, over which a very powerful king reigned. This king was supposed by Columbus to be some great eastern monarch, and he determined to send him a handsome present, and a letter.

He sent to find this king, two Spaniards, one of whom was a converted Jew, who spoke several eastern languages; two Indians with them as guides, laden with trinkets, and strings of beads, as presents to the natives. After travelling some miles, this party came to a village of considerable size. The people received them very kindly, and took them to the principal house of their village. They set food before them, and then sat down on the ground around them, waiting to hear what they might have to say.

The Jew tried his different learned lan-

guages in vain; the poor Indians understood not one word, and the Indian guide from the Bahamas, was obliged to make a speech to them after the Indian fashion. He told them of the wonderful power and riches of these strange white visitors, who had come to their shores; and when he had finished, the simple natives crowded round them as those of San Salvador had done, kissing their hands and feet, and bowing to the ground before them.

Still there was no gold, and nothing else of value to be found among them, and still the natives pointed far off towards the southwest, as the land of gold and spices.

On their way back to the ships, the Spaniards noticed the natives rolling up dried herbs in a leaf, and lighting one end, and putting the other in their mouths, while they puffed out the smoke. This was their first sight of a cigar. The natives called the roll they thus made up "A Tobacco," by which name the plant itself is now called.

All hope of finding gold or other riches among these poor and simple people was now gone; but still they told him of a country far to the east, where the people found great quantities of gold on the banks of the rivers, by torch-light, and in search of this rich country they sailed.

But now the Pinta was seen sailing rapidly

away from them, and its commander, Martin Alonso Pinzon, took no notice of the signals of Columbus, that he should return ; the next morning nothing could be seen of the Pinta.

This troubled Columbus greatly. Pinzon was an old sailor ; a man of wealth, who had given two of the ships and much money toward the expedition ; and had been accustomed to command others. For some time he had seemed unwilling to obey Columbus, and several disputes had arisen between them.

Columbus now feared that Pinzon had deserted him, and started off to make new discoveries by himself, or that he had sailed back to Spain, to be the first to tell of the discoveries that had been made, and get to himself all the credit.

While sailing along, not certain what course he had better take, he saw in the distance high mountains, showing some country or island of great extent. Horror and fright were in the faces of his Indian guides, as the vessel steered towards these mountains. They begged Columbus not to visit those shores, as the inhabitants were people of only one eye, and were fierce and cruel cannibals, or eaters of human flesh.

In spite of their fears, however, Columbus

continued his course, and soon saw before him the beautiful and fertile island of Hayti, or St. Domingo. From its likeness to some of the more beautiful parts of Spain, he called it Española, or, as it is commonly written, Hispaniola.

CHAPTER VIII.

Capture of an Indian Girl—She is set at Liberty—A Visit to the Village—
Nine Men put Two Thousand to Flight—Visit from a young Cacique—
Guacanagari—Wreck of the Santa Maria—Horror of the Natives at
the Report of a Cannon—A Fortress built from the Wreck.

THE natives fled from their dwellings, as the Spaniards came near them, and for a long time could not be persuaded to have anything to say to them. But at last, three sailors succeeded in seizing a young and beautiful Indian girl, who was flying from them, and brought her on board one of the ships.

They treated her with the greatest kindness, gave her presents of beads, hawks' bells, and gay clothing, and sent her on shore again; thinking that the account she would carry to her friends of the treatment she had received, and the presents, so valuable to Indian eyes, which she would have to show, would cause them to forget their fear, and be willing to meet them.

The next day Columbus sent nine men to visit the village to which this young beauty belonged. At first the people fled in fright, but after a time they returned, and putting their hands upon their heads, they bowed before the Spaniards. We cannot but wonder what idea they had formed of these white men, when whole villages would thus fly before a few of them, and when, as we are told, two thousand of them came in fear and trembling, and bowed to the ground before these nine Spaniards.

And now came the young female whom they had seized upon the day before ; she was borne on the shoulders of some of her countrymen, and before her walked her husband ; who, as well as he could, expressed his thanks for the kindness she had received. And now the natives quite forgot their fears, and, taking the Spaniards to their houses, they set before them fish, roots, and many kinds of fruit, gladly giving them the best of everything they had.

Still there were no signs of gold, or wealth, of any kind, and the new-comers were again disappointed.

Farther along the coast of the island, Columbus found that some of the natives had ornaments of gold, which they gladly ex-

changed for the merest trifle. While at one of the harbors, a young chief, or cacique, as he was called, came carried on a kind of litter by four men, and followed by two hundred of his subjects.

Columbus was at dinner in his cabin, when the young chief arrived on board the ship; but the latter entered freely, and without fear, and took his seat beside him. When food was placed before him, he merely tasted it, and then sent it to his followers. After dinner he made the admiral a present of a belt curiously worked, and two pieces of gold.

In return, Columbus made him several presents; and showed him a coin stamped with the likenesses of Ferdinand and Isabella, trying to give him some idea of the wealth and power of those sovereigns. He could not, however, make the chief believe that there were such wonderful people and wonderful things on earth; he insisted that the region of which Columbus spoke, must be beyond the skies.

One day the ships of Columbus anchored in a beautiful harbor, to which he gave the name of St. Thomas. It is probably the one which now goes by the name of the Bay of Acul. A large canoe here put off from the shore, and came to visit the ships. The peo-

ple in it were sent by a grand chief or cacique, whose name was Guacanagari. This chief had sent presents to Columbus, of a broad belt, worked curiously with beads and bones, and a wooden mask or face, with eyes, nose, and tongue of gold. He sent an invitation to Columbus to bring his ships opposite to the village where he lived.

Columbus determined to accept this invitation, and steered for that part of the island; but when within a few miles of the village of this great chief, the wind died nearly away, and the ships scarcely moved upon the water. It was now nearly midnight, and Columbus, who had had no sleep the night before, supposed he might safely leave the vessel to the steersman, and take a little rest.

As soon as he had gone, the steersman seeing the sea so calm, thought that he might safely leave the helm in charge of one of the boys, though he had often been told by Columbus never to do so, and he also went to sleep. But there were under-currents of which the boy knew nothing, running swiftly along this coast, and while no one thought of danger, the ship was carried along by these, and ran with violence upon a sand-bank.

Columbus heard the cry of the boy for help,

and sprang to the deck ; but it was too late to save the ship. The frightened men sprang into the boats, and rowed off to the other vessel, begging to be taken on board. Vicente Yañoz Pinzon called them cowards, and would not receive them, and he himself sprang into a boat, and with some of his men went to the assistance of the admiral.

If the sea had not been perfectly calm, both ship and crew would have been lost ; as it was they were obliged to leave the Santa Maria to her fate, and take refuge on board the other vessel. Columbus sent to the great chief, Guacanagari, telling him of the wreck of his vessel ; the kind-hearted cacique wept when he heard it ; and, calling his people together, he sent off all his canoes to the aid of the admiral, telling him that all he possessed was at his service.

Everything was taken from the wreck, and placed near the dwelling of the chief, and a guard set over it. There was no need of this, however, for all the natives seemed to feel as much sorrow for the loss of the Spaniards, as if it had happened to themselves, and not one of them attempted to steal or conceal the smallest article.

In the journal which Columbus kept to show to the sovereigns, he says : " These peo-

ple love their neighbors as themselves; their discourse is ever sweet and gentle, and accompanied by a smile. I swear to your majesties, there is not in the world a better nation or a better land."

The loss of this vessel was a great grief to Columbus, as we can easily imagine. . The good chief, Guacanagari, was much troubled when he met him, at seeing him so sad, and did all in his power to cheer and amuse him. He invited him on shore, gave him the best of everything he had to offer, and then led him to a beautiful grove, where a thousand of his subjects, all perfectly naked, performed various dances, and games for his amusement.

In return, Columbus requested some of his followers to show the natives their skill in shooting with the bow and arrow; he also ordered a cannon to be discharged. This was a thing entirely new to the Indians, and when they heard the terrible sound of the cannon, and saw the ball tearing the branches of the trees, as it passed through them, they fell to the earth as suddenly as if they had indeed been shot. When the Spaniards told them, however, that with these wonderful engines they would protect them against their much-dreaded enemies, the Caribs, they were in

great delight, that they were thus taken under the protection of these sons of Heaven, who had brought down the thunder and lightning, with which to defend them from the attacks of their enemies.

The cacique placed a sort of crown of gold upon the head of Columbus, and hung plates of gold around his neck. When he saw how much value Columbus and his men set upon gold, he told them by signs, that there was a place not far off, among high and rugged mountains, where it was so abundant, that the people cared nothing about it; and the chief who ruled over it, owned many rich mines, and had banners of solid gold. "Now, surely," thought Columbus, "I shall find that rich island of gold, and pearls, and spices, in search of which I started."

When the Spaniards saw what an easy, careless life was led by the natives of these beautiful and fertile islands, how charming was the climate, and how rich the ground; how delicious and abundant were the fruits, and how plenty the fish along the coasts and rivers, they could not bear the thought of returning to their own country, where they must toil and labor for a living.

They therefore spoke to Columbus of the difficulty and danger of taking so many men

across the wide ocean in that one small poor caraval, and begged to be allowed to remain on that lovely island. This gave Columbus the idea of leaving some of his men, as the beginning of a little colony, while he returned to Spain, to induce others to visit these newly found regions.

They concluded then to use the wreck of the vessel in building a fortress, in which they would place men, with arms to defend themselves in case of trouble; these men were to employ themselves in exploring the island, becoming acquainted with the people, learning the language, and collecting gold, during his absence.

The cacique was delighted to find that some of these powerful men were going to remain with them, to protect them, and that the admiral was to return; and his followers gladly assisted the Spaniards to build their fort, little thinking that they would one day be slaves to the people whom they welcomed so gladly.

CHAPTER IX.

The Pinta still missing—Columbus sails for Spain—"Ship ahoy!"—The Pinta again—Fight with Indians—Mayonabeg—A Tempest—Vows to God and the Virgin—The package in the cask—Island of St. Mary's—Attempt to seize Columbus—A Harbor in Portugal.

ALL this time Columbus was greatly troubled about the Pinta, which was still absent. Should that vessel be lost, there was only one poor little caraval left to take back the tidings of their discoveries to the old world. He did not dare, therefore, to remain longer, but determined to sail immediately for Spain, to ask for better ships and more men, with which to continue to explore those beautiful islands.

In ten days the fortress was finished, and defended with cannon, and was considered strong enough to protect them against all the foes who might attack them. From those who wished to remain, Columbus chose thirty-nine to occupy the fortress, over whom he

placed a commander, charging the men to be obedient to him; respectful to the cacique, and to treat the natives with kindness. They were also to busy themselves in collecting gold and spices, against his return.

The parting was a sorrowful one. The kind-hearted cacique shed many tears, for he loved and admired the Admiral; the sailors to whom the natives had shown great kindness parted from them with sorrow. But harder than all was it to bid adieu to the little band of brethren they were to leave behind.

As they left the shore they cheered the little company, who stood looking after them till the white sails could no longer be seen, but who were never to welcome their return. On the 4th of January they set out on their return voyage. The day but one after, a sailor at the mast-head cried out that there was a sail in the distance, making towards them.

Great was their joy when it proved to be the lost Pinta. Pinzon had but a poor excuse to make for himself, saying that he had been separated from the other vessels by the wind, and had spent all this time in looking for them.

Columbus said little, but he did not believe this story; he found afterwards that Pinzon

had intended to desert him, and that he had sailed off towards a region where the Indians on board his vessel had told him he would find gold in abundance.

He had been all this time upon another part of the island of Hispaniola, and had collected much gold there by trading with the natives. Half of this he had kept, and divided the other half among his men. He had also stolen four Indian men and two girls, intending to take them with him back to Spain, and sell them as slaves.

Columbus, however, would by no means consent to this cruelty ; and thought it would never do in the outset thus to arouse the anger of the natives ; he therefore sailed directly back to the place from which these poor Indians were brought, and set them on shore, well clothed and laden with many presents. At this Pinzon was much vexed.

While sailing along the coast the vessels came to anchor in a large deep bay ; where they were visited by a fierce and warlike people, whom Columbus at first supposed to be the terrible Caribs, of whom the people in the other islands were in such fear ; he soon found, however, that he was mistaken.

This tribe attacked the Spaniards, and there was a fight between them, in which several

of the Indians were killed. Columbus feared that other quarrels would follow, but to his surprise, the cacique and three of his people visited their ships the next day, as if nothing had happened.

Columbus was pleased to see that he was willing to trust himself with so few of his followers, in their vessel, so soon after this quarrel; he received him with great kindness and gave him many presents.

The name of this cacique was Mayonabeg; he proved to be a brave and noble man. Remember his name, for perhaps you may hear of him again.

And now Columbus and his little band made all sail for Spain. The trade winds which had carried them on their western way were now dead against their return. In spite of these head winds, and of calm seas, they had, however, sailed so far by the 12th of February, as to begin to hope soon to see land. But now came a change of weather. Black clouds came over them, the sea and sky became angry, a fearful wind howled round the crazy little vessels, and the loud roll of the thunder, and the bright flashes of lightning, added to the fears of the sailors.

For three days and nights, the tempest raged, and in the midst of it the Pinta was

again separated from them, and they entirely lost sight of her. Columbus and his men seeing that they were at the mercy of the winds and waves, and that they could do no more for their own safety, began to make vows and promises of what they would do if their lives were spared, thinking that by these means, God and the Virgin would be persuaded to listen to their prayers, and save them from death.

Among other things they all pledged themselves to walk in procession barefooted, and in their shirts, to offer up thanks to the Virgin in some church where she was worshipped. Still, on raged the storm, and only death seemed before them.

In this time of danger, Columbus thought of his two boys, and how lonely and desolate they would be left if he should be taken away. He thought more, however, of the loss it would be to the world, if his vessels were to go down at sea, and none be left to make known his discoveries. He remembered the mockery and ridicule his plans had met with, and he thought with pain of the triumph of his enemies, in case he should perish and nothing ever be heard in the land he had left, of him, or of the countries of which he went in search.

An idea now occurred to him, which he proceeded at once to act upon. He wrote on parchment an account of his discoveries, and of his having taken possession of these new found islands in the names of the sovereigns of Spain. This he sealed up, and directed it to the king and queen, and upon the wrapper he wrote a promise of a handsome reward to the person who should deliver it safely, knowing that he might depend upon the king and queen to pay this reward, if the package should be brought to them.

This package he wrapped in a waxed cloth, which he placed in the centre of a cake of wax, and then put it in a cask, which he threw into the sea. A copy of the same thing he put up in the same way, and set the cask in which he placed it, upon the deck of the vessel, so that if the vessel went down, the cask would float off, and perhaps be picked up and saved.

Fortunately for the poor sailors, however, a streak of clear sky was at last seen in the west, and on the morning of the 15th of February, they came in sight of land. After the storm and dangers through which they had passed, and their long absence from home, the sailors welcomed the sight of the shores of the Old World with as much delight as they had shown on seeing the New.

But again the wind arose, and they were kept for some days in sight of land, yet not able to reach it. When at length they came to anchor, they found themselves off the coast of the island of St. Mary's, one of the Azores, belonging to the crown of Portugal.

You remember that Columbus had once laid his plans before the King of Portugal, who had been persuaded by his wise men not to have anything to do with them. King John was sorry afterward that he had let the opportunity go, of gaining new possessions, and knowing that the Spanish sovereigns had sent Columbus upon his voyage, he became jealous lest they might interfere with his own discoveries.

He therefore sent word to the commanders of all islands and ports belonging to him, that if Columbus should at any time put into them with his vessels, he should be seized and detained. On arriving at St. Mary's, Columbus sent on shore part of his crew, to fulfill the promise they had made, to walk barefooted to a chapel of the Virgin, and offer thanks for their preservation. When they returned to the vessel, Columbus and the rest of the crew were to go on shore to do the same.

While the first little party were in the

chapel giving thanks, they were suddenly surrounded, and taken prisoners by a party of soldiers, headed by the governor of the island, who supposed that Columbus himself was in the chapel.

Finding that he had failed in getting possession of Columbus, he tried other means to induce him to come on shore, but Columbus was too wise to trust himself in his power, and after waiting two or three days for his men, who were at last set free, he again set sail.

Another tremendous storm burst over their heads; their sails were all torn to pieces, and instant death seemed to be before them. At length, in the midst of a stormy and fearful night, came the cry of "Land!" usually heard with such joy by the tempest-tossed sailor.

But now their fears only increased, for they knew not where they were, and feared they should be driven on unknown rocks, and dashed to pieces. When the day dawned they found themselves near the coast of Portugal, at the mouth of the river Tagus.

CHAPTER X.

Wonder of the People—Visits to the Ships—The Court of King John—Honors paid to Columbus—Mean Proposals of the King's Councillors—Plan adopted by King John—Reception of Columbus at Palos—The Vow performed—Return of the Pinta—Disgrace and Death of Pinson—The Court of Ferdinand and Isabella—Reception of Columbus there.

THE shores of Portugal were not those which Columbus would have been the most glad to see; however, as it was, he was happy to run into any place of shelter, and he therefore anchored in the river. The inhabitants came off from the shore, happy to see them anchored in safety. The oldest sailors said that they had never known so stormy a winter, and that they had been long watching the vessel of Columbus, and putting up prayers for her safety.

Columbus immediately sent a messenger to the king and queen of Spain, telling them the story of his discovery. He wrote, too, to the king of Portugal, telling him that as the story had got abroad that his vessel was laden with

gold, he did not think it safe to remain near the class of people who inhabited that coast, and asking permission to come to Lisbon.

Columbus had brought with him some of the natives of the New World, as well as plants, animals, and birds, to exhibit to the sovereigns and people of Spain, and some specimens of gold. On hearing of the wonders with which his vessel was freighted, the people flocked in crowds to visit it, and the Tagus was covered with boats bringing people to examine these curiosities.

Many officers of the crown and people of rank visited the vessel, and when they saw the wonders brought by Columbus, they were vexed and grieved that Portugal had lost the chance of these discoveries.

Columbus now received a kind letter from King John, inviting him to visit his court; orders were sent also that everything he needed for the journey should be furnished him at the expense of the king. This invitation it would not do to decline, though it would not have been the wish of Columbus to visit the court of King John; he therefore set out to accept the invitation.

He was met by gentlemen of the king's household, who conducted him with great pomp to the palace of the king, by whom he

was received with the greatest respect and honor, and made to sit down in his presence, an honor granted only to those of the highest rank.

The king also asked him many questions about the islands he had visited, and though he pretended to be pleased, as Columbus told of the beauties and wonders of those far-off regions, he was much grieved at heart that he had not at first listened to Columbus, when the offer of sending out the expedition was made to him.

His counsellors, too—the very men who had ridiculed the plans of Columbus—were now ready to encourage these feelings of the king, and to excite his jealousy and hatred of the Admiral. They told him it was most likely that these lands which Columbus had visited and claimed for Spain, were some of those very lands given to Portugal by the Pope—and that the people whom Columbus had brought with him were the same kind of people as those described by the travellers in that part of India which belonged to Portugal.

Some of these men, seeing how greatly the king was troubled and vexed, had the meanness to propose to him to put Columbus to death; but to this the king would not listen for a moment.

Their next advice was that he should fit out a powerful fleet, and send and take possession of these new-found islands, and if Spain was willing to fight, let the matter be settled in that way. This advice pleased the king, who determined to follow it.

Still he treated Columbus with the greatest kindness and respect, and offered him free passage by land to Spain; but when he found that Columbus preferred to return by sea, he sent him to his ships, attended by a long train of gentlemen of rank. Columbus set sail, and arrived safely at the little port of Palos, which he had left seven months and a half before.

The return of Columbus was, as we can readily believe, a great event in the little town of Palos. Sons, brothers and friends, who had sailed with him, had been given up as lost forever, and when the news spread that they had returned in safety, and had been successful, the joy of the people knew no bounds. Bells were rung, shops were closed, and there was a general holiday and time of rejoicing. The whole town flocked to the shore to greet with joy those from whom they had parted in sorrow and tears. This moment must have repaid Columbus for many of his toils and trials.

Here he landed, and with his followers

walked in procession to the Church of Saint George, to return thanks for his safe arrival. The air rang with shouts as they passed, and such honors as are paid to kings were heaped upon him. No doubt he thought of the day when, poor and weary, he had arrived on foot at that very place, leading his little boy, and was glad to receive at the convent gate a crust of bread and a drink of water.

From this place Columbus wrote to the king and queen, to tell them of his arrival, and then he went to Seville to wait for their answer. The answer came and was as kind as he could wish. The sovereigns were astonished and delighted with the success of Columbus, and begged him to come to the court immediately, that they might hear from his own lips of the wonders he had seen, and arrange with him a plan for a second expedition.

All this time, Martin Alonzo Pinzon and the Pinta were still absent; but strange to say, the missing caraval arrived at the port of Palos the very day the other two vessels anchored there. It had been driven into the Bay of Biscay, and from there, Pinzon, thinking it likely that Columbus had perished, wrote to the sovereigns, giving an account of the discovery and begging to be allowed to

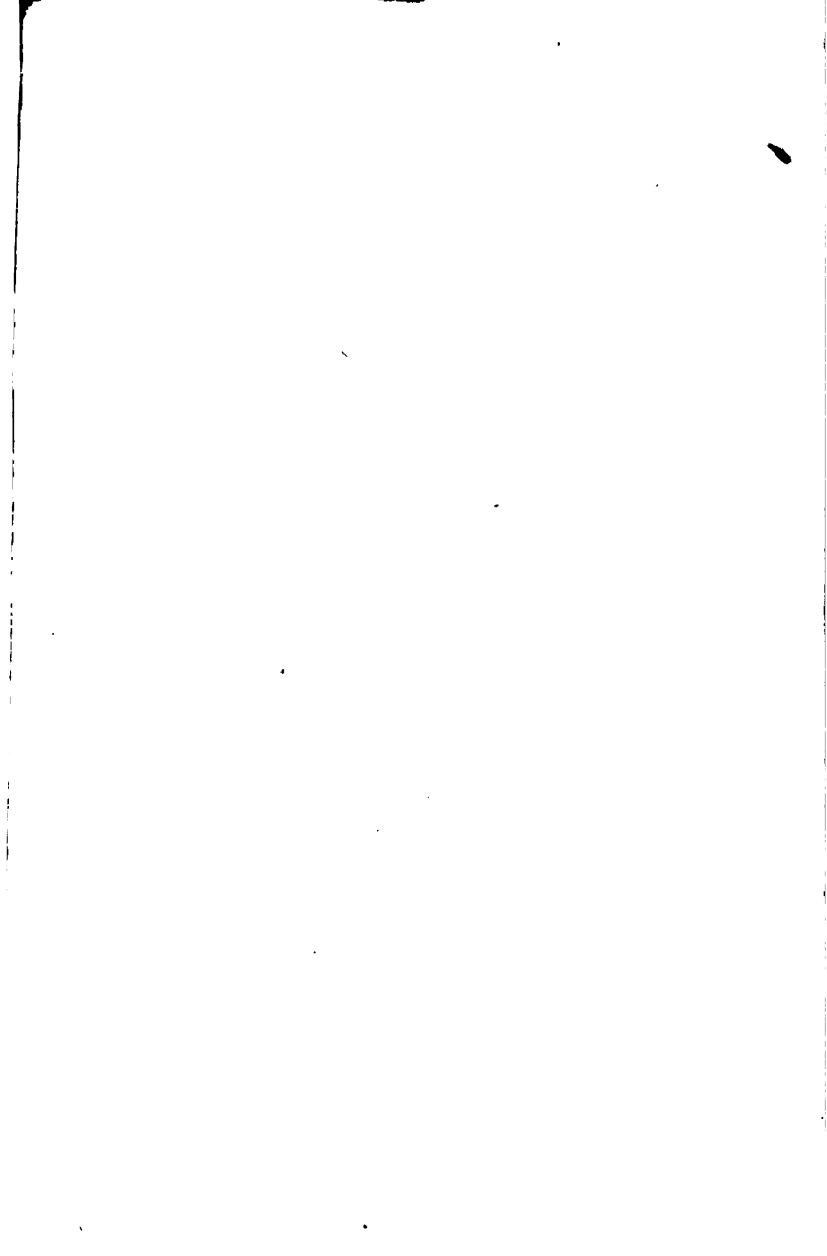
come to court and tell the story more particularly.

As soon as the weather would permit, he set sail for Palos, expecting to be received with great honor. But when he saw the ships of Columbus already there, his heart died within him. Wishing to keep out of the way of Columbus, he landed secretly and waited till he had left Palos, and then he went to his home sad and heart-sick.

A letter from the sovereigns, blaming his conduct as it deserved, and forbidding him to appear at court, added to his distress and mortification, and in a few days he died of grief.

The court was now at the city of Barcelona, and for that place Columbus and his followers set out, accompanied by the six Indians he had carried with him. The people poured forth in throngs to see them as they passed, and shouts of joy filled the air. In the cities, the windows of the houses were filled with eager faces, and the streets with crowds, all anxious to get a view of the wonderful sailor, and of the strange people he had brought with him from other lands.

As he came near the city of Barcelona, crowds came forth to meet him and conduct him to the palace. The procession must have been a curious and interesting one. First





Reception by Ferdinand and Isabella.

walked the six Indians, painted gaily and covered with ornaments of gold.

Then were carried many beautiful live parrots, and stuffed birds of various kinds; also curious animals never before seen in that country, and rare plants from these newly-found islands; while the Indian bracelets and other ornaments of gold were placed in such a situation, that they would be sure to meet all eyes.

After this followed Columbus on horseback, with a great number of Spanish gentlemen on horseback also, attending him. The crowd was so great that it was almost impossible for the procession to make its way through the streets, while the very roofs of the houses were crowded with people, all anxious to gain a sight of Columbus and the wonders he had brought with him.

The sovereigns received him in a vast saloon, to which they had ordered their throne to be carried, and placed under a canopy of gold and embroidery. As Columbus approached, they rose to receive him; and when he bowed before them, and would have kissed their hands, they raised him up, and made him sit beside them. This was an honor granted to very few, and only those of the highest rank.

Columbus now gave the king and queen an account of his voyage and discovery of the New World, and showed them the natives and curiosities he had brought. He told them that this was but the beginning of his discoveries; that he expected yet to bring to light great wealth, and to find many nations to be converted to the Christian faith.

When he had finished, the king and queen sank on their knees, and with tears of joy and gratitude, returned thanks to Heaven; while the vast hall rang with the anthem of praise, and the sound of instruments of music.

CHAPTER XI.

Story of the Egg—Joy throughout the World—Ferdinand's Application to the Pope—Second Expedition of Columbus—Priests—Friar Boyle—Expedition of King John—King John outwitted—Alonso de Ojeda—His Daring Feat—The Second Voyage—The Lost Men.

EVERY honor was now heaped upon Columbus; he was constantly admitted to the presence of the king and queen, and was often seen riding with the king on horseback. Of course, all who wished to gain favor with the sovereigns, treated him with equal respect and attention.

At a feast given to Columbus, one of the followers of the court, a weak and silly person, who was jealous of the attention paid to this great man, asked him if he thought there was no one else in Spain who could have found the way to the New World, in case he had not been successful?

Columbus said nothing at first, but took an egg from a dish, and asked those present to make it stand on one end. Every one tried

without success; the egg would roll over upon its side. Columbus then took the egg, and striking it upon the table, he left it standing on the broken end—thus showing them that it was very easy to do some things after they were taught the way.

But not in Spain alone was great joy felt at these discoveries. The whole world was interested, and learned men everywhere rejoiced, and yet they had no idea that a new western world had been opened to them. All supposed that only a new way had been opened the eastern coast of Asia, and for this reason, these newly-discovered islands were called the West Indies.

As I have told you, the Pope of Rome then pretended to have the right of doing what he pleased with all newly-discovered countries, no matter by what country they might be discovered. Ferdinand, therefore, sent messengers to the Pope, asking him to give him power over these newly-found lands, and stating that they did not interfere with those he had already given to Portugal—giving a slight hint, at the same time, that he should keep them whether the Pope gave him permission or not. The desired permission was therefore given without delay.

And now the greatest exertions were made

to fit out the second expedition of Columbus. With this were to sail twelve priests, who were commanded by the queen to labor faithfully for the conversion of the natives to the Roman Catholic faith. At the head of these was a priest named Bernardo Boyle—a man of talents, and supposed to be a very holy man; but in reality he was very crafty and cunning.

The lovely Queen Isabella took a great interest in the natives of her new possessions, looking upon them as committed by Heaven to her care. She provided the priests with everything necessary to perform the rites and ceremonies of the Romish church. She also gave orders that the natives should be treated with the utmost gentleness and kindness, and gave Columbus power to punish severely all Spaniards who might injure or oppress them.

All this time, King John of Portugal was secretly fitting out a fleet to seize upon these newly-discovered islands. He pretended that this fleet was to be sent to Africa; but though he tried his best to deceive Ferdinand, the latter understood him perfectly and knew very well what he was about.

He therefore hurried his own preparations, so that his fleet had the start of that of Portugal, and King John had to give up, beaten.

By great labor and industry, a fleet of seventeen vessels was now nearly ready. Workmen of all kinds engaged to go to the new colony; instead of holding back and being forced to go, people were begging to be allowed to sail with them, and men of rank and wealth offered to pay their own expenses, if they might only be permitted to accompany the expedition.

Among these gentlemen of rank was a young cavalier of the name of Alonzo de Ojeda, who was much loved and admired by the young men of his time. No one could perform such wonderful feats as he. He was small and lightly-made, dark complexioned, but very handsome; an excellent horseman, and skillful in the use of all weapons and in all kinds of exercises.

He was noble and generous, bold, fearless, and high-spirited; quick to become angry, and just as ready to forgive. The first thing we hear of him is a bold and rash feat he performed in the presence of Queen Isabella, at the Cathedral of Seville. There is to this cathedral a very high tower, called the Moorish tower. From the side of this tower, at a very great height from the ground, extended a beam twenty feet long. Along this beam Alonzo de Ojeda walked lightly and quickly,

stopped at the end, spun round on one foot, and walked back. When he reached the tower, he put one foot against it, and threw an orange to the very top, a feat which required wonderful strength of arm. All this time, if he had once grown dizzy, or made a false step, he would have been plunged to the earth, and dashed in pieces.

And now all was ready to sail upon the second expedition. Very different was this fleet from that of the three poor little vessels which had set out from the port of Palos, toward the unknown sea, followed by eyes dimmed with tears.

Now the sails of seventeen vessels whitened the bay of Cadiz; and though Columbus had intended to take only a thousand men with him, yet by dint of begging to be allowed to go without any pay, and stealing secretly on board, it was found that fifteen hundred had actually sailed with them.

All were full of hope, and friends parted with smiles and cheering words; while those who were not so fortunate as to be allowed to accompany them, looked upon the sailors with envy, as men who were to visit lovely climes, abounding with gold, and fruits, and flowers, and to return laden with the treasures of the New World.

As Columbus moved about with his two sons, who had come to see him embark, every eye followed him with admiration, and every tongue praised and blessed him. They sailed with charming winds and pleasant breezes, the trade-winds wafting them gently on their way.

They passed many beautiful islands covered with fine forests, and gay with parrots and other bright beautiful birds, while the breeze brought them delightful odors from the woods and flowers. These islands were part of the group of the Antilles, which you will see extending from the island of Porto Rico, to the coast of South America.

On one of these islands the Spaniards first saw and tasted the delicious pine-apple; but they saw another sight there which filled them with horror. In the houses of the natives, they saw human limbs hanging to dry, while others were boiling and roasting over the fire.

Columbus now knew that he had arrived at the islands of the Caribs or cannibals, so much dreaded in those seas. The Caribs were a fierce and terrible people, roving far and wide, landing upon the other islands, and seizing the men, whom they killed and ate, while they carried off the youngest and handsomest females to be their slaves.

While at this island, a party of eight men left the ships, and strayed off into the woods, and when the darkness of night came on, they had not returned. Great anxiety was felt about them lest they had already become food for these fierce islanders, and in the morning, parties well armed and with trumpets were sent out in search of them, while guns were fired from the ships to guide the missing ones in their return. In the evening, however, the parties returned, having found no trace of them.

Then started off the bold and brave Alonzo de Ojeda, accompanied by forty men. He searched the forests and mountains, firing guns and sounding trumpets, but with no better success. He found the forests so close and dark, that it was with the greatest difficulty the men could make their way through them, and Alonzo de Ojeda declared that they had waded through twenty-six rivers since the morning.

Days passed away, and there were no signs of the missing ones; when just as Columbus had given them up, and was about sailing without them, they appeared, weak, faint and exhausted. All this time they had been lost in a forest so thick and dark, that they could not see their way; and even by climbing the

trees, they could not see the stars, owing to the height and thickness of the branches.

They had given up all hope of ever finding their way out of these dark woods, when, to their great joy, they came upon the sea, and following the coast, they soon made their way back to the ships.

CHAPTER XII.

**Fight with Indians—Fighting Women—The “Eleven Thousand Virgins”
—Porto Rico—What became of the Fortress—Fate of the Garrison—
Caonabo, the Carib Cacique—Guacanagari—Catalina—Her escape.**

THE fleet now sailed upon their way, touching at islands as they passed. At one of them, Columbus sent a boat on shore for water, which was attacked by some Indians, who were in a canoe. Two females were with these Indians, and in the fight which followed, these women fought as fiercely as the men.

One of them wounded a Spanish soldier with an arrow, and when their canoe was overturned, they continued to fight in the water, gathering together on sunken rocks, and letting fly their arrows thick and fast.

At last, with great difficulty, they were taken prisoners, and brought on board the ships. One of them appeared to be their queen, and was accompanied by her son, a

haughty, frowning young Indian, who had been wounded in the fight. One of the Indians died of his wounds, and also one of the Spaniards, who had been wounded with a poisoned arrow.

Now they passed such an immense cluster of islands, that Columbus gave it the name of the "Eleven Thousand Virgins," and soon after they arrived within sight of the island of Porto Rico. For a whole day they ran along its beautiful coast, and on the 22nd of November, Columbus saw before him, for the second time, the island of Hispaniola.

It was upon this island, you remember, that Columbus had left the little band in the fortress, which had been built from the remains of the wrecked vessel. The men were now happy that their voyage was so nearly ended, and those who had sailed on the first expedition looked forward with joy to meeting their friends whom they had left upon the island.

At the place where, on their first expedition, they had had a fight with the natives, Columbus set on shore one of the Indians he had taken to Spain with him. He was loaded with gay and handsome trinkets, and Columbus supposed he would give grand accounts to his people of the wealth and power of the

Spaniards; but he never heard of him afterwards.

At one place where they stopped, as some of the seamen were walking along the shore, they found the bodies of three men and a boy, who had evidently been dead a long time, and had without doubt been killed. One of these men was a white man, and one of the other bodies had a rope of Spanish grass about his neck. This made Columbus and his men feel anxious lest some misfortune had happened to those they left in the fortress, and they hastened on, eager to find out what had become of them.

When they arrived opposite the place where they had left the fortress, it was so dark that nothing on shore could be seen. Two guns were now fired from the ship, and they looked and waited anxiously for a reply. But there was neither light, nor gun, nor friendly shout to be heard. All was darkness and silence.

What had become of the friends they had left behind them? A few hours passed in anxiety; but about midnight, a canoe came alongside of one of the vessels. In it were some Indians, who asked for the Admiral, saying they would not come on board till they had seen him.

Columbus now came to the side of his ves-

sel; but the Indians were not satisfied till a light was held near his face, so that there could be no mistake. When they saw the face of the Admiral they entered the ship willingly.

One of these Indians was a cousin of the Cacique Guacanagari, and brought the Admiral a present from this chief. The first question Columbus asked was, what had become of the men he left in the fortress.

The Indian answered that some of them had died of sickness; others had quarrelled and killed each other; and the rest had gone off to another part of the island. He said, too, that the chief, Guacanagari, had been attacked by a fierce and terrible cacique from the Golden Mountains, that his village had been burned, and he was wounded, and was now lying in a neighboring village, unable to walk.

Columbus treated the Indians with great kindness, and gave them many presents; and when they left, they promised to return to the ships the next day, and bring the wounded chief with them. The next day passed, however, and there were no signs of the promised visit. All was silent about the harbor; not a canoe was seen—not a single Indian hailed them from the shore—nor was there any smoke to be seen rising from among the trees.

At length, towards evening, Columbus sent off a boat to see what might be the state of things on shore. The men went at once to the place where they had built their fortress, from the wreck of the Santa Maria. The fortress was burnt to the ground; the place where it had stood was strewn with broken chests, spoiled provisions, and pieces of the clothing of their friends.

Not an Indian came near them; and if they saw one looking at them from behind the trees, he would run away as soon as he found that he was seen. Not being able to find out anything relating to those they had left behind, the sailors returned to their ships with sad hearts.

The next morning, Columbus himself went on shore, and visited the ruins of the fortress. Here he and his men searched for a long time for the bodies of those he had left there. He ordered cannon to be fired, so that if any of the men were living, and were near, they would know that he had arrived.

When Columbus left this little company, he told them if they were at any time attacked by the Indians, to bury everything of value they had, or throw it into the well of the fortress. He now had the well searched, and set his men to digging over the whole

ground, but no gold or treasure was to be found.

Not far from the fortress, they dug up the bodies of eleven white men, who seemed to have been buried a long time. And now, they found in the houses of some of the Indians, articles which had belonged to their friends in the fortress, and which they would not have been likely to sell. But as the village of the chief Guacanagari was also burned to the ground, it seemed as if that had been attacked by the same party who had burned the fortress. For some time Columbus did not know what to think of all these things.

But at length, the natives began to come slowly back, showing less fear, and by means of an interpreter (or one who could speak both the Spanish and Indian languages), Columbus found out the fate of his men.

It seems that almost as soon as they lost sight of the vessels of Columbus, these men forgot the orders he had given them. Instead of treating the natives kindly, and trying to keep up good feeling with them, they began to abuse and cheat them, and to get possession of their gold ornaments and other things of value, by unfair means.

The commander whom Columbus had placed over them tried hard to keep them in order,

and to make them do right; but they would not obey him—and some of them rose up against him, and tried to get the power in their own hands. In one of these quarrels a Spaniard was killed. Those who were not willing to obey the commander, now started off for the Golden Mountains, expecting to get great quantities of gold from the mines.

The mountains were in that part of the country commanded by a famous and terrible chief named Caonabo. This chief was one of those fierce and cruel Caribs, of whom I have told you; he had come to this island and gained such power over the people in that part of it, that they obeyed and followed him, and he became the most powerful chief on the island. He was called by the Spaniards "the Lord of the Golden House."

This chief was a bitter enemy of the white men. He saw that if they should come in great numbers to the island, the Indians must give way before them, and he thought the wisest plan would be to kill them off as fast as they came.

This party who had left the fortress, therefore, had hardly reached the Golden Mountains, when they were seized and put to death. He then collected his people, and marched quickly and very secretly for the fortress.

There were only ten men now left there, with the commander whom Columbus had set over them. The rest were living in the Indian village, never thinking of danger. In the dead of night, the little band in the fortress were suddenly awakened by loud and horrible yells, and in a moment the fierce Caonabo and his savage warriors were upon them.

Eight of the Spaniards were driven into the sea; the rest, in the fort and in the village, were put to death, and the fort itself and the Indian village were burned to the ground. The chief Guacanagari and his people fought bravely for the Spaniards, but they were easily beaten by these more warlike natives.

Columbus was now certain that Guacanagari was a good and true friend to the whites, but the other Spaniards would not believe it. They constantly looked upon him with dislike. When they visited him, they found him suffering with pain in the leg, which he said had been injured in the fight. But though it seemed to give him great pain when it was touched, yet as there was no outward sign of a bruise, the Spaniards did not believe what he said, but thought he was deceiving them.

Columbus remembered the kindness this chief had shown him before, and believed him

a true friend still. He urged him to come on board his ships, where the wonders from the Old World which were shown him, filled the cacique with wonder. The horses, particularly, astonished him very much, as he had never seen anything of the kind.

The sight of the Carib prisoners which Columbus had taken made him look with more and more wonder upon these powerful Spaniards, who could thus conquer these fierce people; and he could not look upon the Caribs without fear and trembling, though they were in chains.

On board the ship were some women whom Columbus had found prisoners among the Caribs, and had taken from them. Among these was a handsome woman much admired by the Spaniards, whom they called Catalina.

The cacique seemed much pleased with this woman, and often spoke gently and kindly to her; he seemed to feel sorry for her, for though she had been taken from the Caribs, she and the other Indian women were still prisoners. A feast was prepared for the chief, and Columbus tried all in his power to make him feel at ease; but it was plain that he saw the feelings of the other Spaniards towards him, and he felt uneasy and anxious to be gone.

The Spaniards, perceiving this, were more and more certain that he was in heart an enemy; and Father Boyle, who particularly disliked him, urged Columbus to seize him and make a prisoner of him. Columbus, however, would not listen to this advice for a moment.

The next day the brother of the cacique came on board, pretending to bring gold to sell; but he quietly whispered a message to Catalina, which was sent her from the chief.

At midnight, when all was silent, Catalina quietly woke her companions, and told them that now was the time to gain their freedom. The ship was three miles from the shore; but the natives of these islands, being accustomed to living in the water almost as much as on land, thought little of swimming that distance.

These women then let themselves down silently from the side of the vessel, and swam for the shore. The watch heard a sound in the water, and gave the alarm. Boats started out in pursuit, and steered for a light on the shore, which had been placed there to guide the women. These, however, reached the land before they were overtaken.

Four of them were seized on the shore, but

Catalina, with the rest, escaped into the woods. Here she was met by the cacique, who, from that time, disappeared from that part of the island. The Spaniards were now more certain than ever that he was a traitor, and that no one but he had destroyed the fortress, and murdered the friends they had left there.

CHAPTER XIII.

Founding of the City of Isabella—Trouble, Sickness and Disappointment—The "Lord of the Golden House"—Expedition of Ojeda—Wealth of the Golden Mountains—Plot against Columbus—Punishment of Offenders—The Golden Mountains.

EVERYTHING connected with this harbor had been so sad and unfortunate, that the sailors did not dare to remain there—fearing that if they did so, they would always be likely to meet with misfortune. The ground was low and damp also; and as there was no stone near for building, Columbus determined to search for a better harbor, and a better situation, in which to build his town and plant his little colony.

He at length found a fine harbor, protected by high rocks on one side, and a close, thick forest on the other. A fine plain was near, watered by two rivers, and at this place were set on shore the workmen to be employed in the colony, and also the cattle and other live stock.

In this plain they encamped around a small lake, laid out the plan of the town, and began to build the houses. The church, the storehouse, and the residence of Columbus, were built of stone, while the other dwellings were of wood, plaster, reeds, and whatever else could be easily found. Thus was built the first Christian city in the New World, which was named by Columbus, "Isabella," after the lovely Queen of Spain.

For a time all went well, and the men worked willingly; but soon sickness appeared among them, and one after another fell under its power. Sea-sickness and exposure had brought some of them down, and the hard work, to which they were unaccustomed, and the hot, damp climate, had a terrible effect upon the rest—while the great disappointment they had met with, and their sadness and melancholy added to their sufferings.

You remember that the Spaniards left their own country in high spirits, and full of hope; feeling that a life of ease and pleasure was before them; that the fruits of the earth would be ready to their hands, and gold could be had in plenty by him who stooped to pick it up.

In this they had found themselves very much mistaken; for, so far, they had seen

very little gold, and this could be obtained only by hard labor. And now the health of the admiral gave way before the toils, and troubles, and anxiety through which he had gone, and for several weeks, he was kept in his bed by severe sickness. Still the little colony filled all his thoughts, and he continued to give directions about the building of the city.

Many of the ships were now ready to return to Spain; but no gold or silver treasure was ready to be sent in them. Columbus had expected to find much gold and other articles of value in the fortress which was destroyed; but these hopes were disappointed.

Something must be done, however, before the vessels sailed, as he had made grand promises of gold which should be sent back, and it would not do to let the vessels return without any. The country of the "Lord of the Golden House," was but three or four days journey from the spot where they were building their city, and there were the Golden Mountains and the rich mines, which perhaps contained untold wealth.

Columbus now determined to send a party of men to examine this part of the country. If the stories told by the Indians were true, he would be able to send home to Spain bril-

liant accounts of the Golden Mountains of Cibao.

Alonso de Ojeda, the rash and daring young cavalier, whom you remember, was the one chosen to lead this party of men. Nothing could delight him more than any service of difficulty and danger; and the stories told of the fierce and terrible cacique of those mountains, only made him the more anxious to be sent into his dominions.

He set out from the harbor, heading a small party of well armed men, some of whom were bold and fearless like himself. They crossed the first range of mountains and descended by a narrow and winding Indian path to the plain below, which was covered with noble forests, and dotted with many little Indian villages, the inhabitants of which were very kind and friendly.

There were many rivers to be forded by the party, so that it took them six days to reach the Golden Mountains. Here frequent sights of gold met their delighted eyes. The sands of the mountain streams glistened with it, stones were streaked with it, and large pieces of pure gold were picked up in the brooks.

The little party returned to the harbor with cheering accounts of the wealth of the Golden

mountains, and twelve ships were immediately sent to Spain, carrying tidings of the wealth of this golden region. Specimens of the gold were sent, and also fruits, plants and animals; the Carib prisoners were sent in the same vessels, that they might be taught the Christian religion, and return to teach it to their countrymen.

Columbus sent at the same time to beg for a supply of provisions, for the men could not live upon the food of the natives, and the stores they had brought with them were nearly gone.

There is one thing which Columbus mentioned in his letter that we are sorry to see. So much money had been spent in fitting out his expeditions, and as yet he had been able to send so little in return, that he advised them to sell all the Caribs they could seize upon and send over to Spain as slaves, or exchange them for supplies to be sent back to the colony.

To ease his own conscience and that of the sovereigns, he said that these Caribs were fierce cannibals, always making war upon their peaceful neighbors, and that great good might be done by sending them to Spain, where they would be taught the Christian religion. The kind and good Queen Isabella could not agree to this, but immediately sent

orders that the Caribs should be treated like the rest of the islanders.

When the fleet returned to Spain, though it brought no gold, yet the tidings Columbus had sent, gave great joy to the sovereigns and the people. But in the meantime the people in the colony began to murmur, and as sickness spread among them, they began to look with fear and horror upon the wilderness around them, and to long to return to their own land.

There was an ignorant and ill-tempered man in the colony, who had been sent out because he pretended he knew how to try and purify gold; this man did all he could to increase the ill-feeling of the people. He said it was very plain there was no gold to be found in the island; that all which had been brought by the natives had probably been a long time in their families, and had been handed down from father to son.

At length the feelings of the people became so excited that they determined, now that Columbus was sick, to seize upon all the ships that were in the harbor, and return to Spain; when there, they would complain to the sovereigns of the conduct of Columbus, and give such an account of themselves as to escape punishment.

By good fortune this wicked plot became known to Columbus, and he felt obliged to punish the leaders in it. The principal one was sent on board one of the ships in irons, to return to Spain, while the others were punished, but not as much as they deserved.

This was the first time Columbus had punished those who broke the laws in the new settlement, and it raised a perfect storm of rage against him. The people who had been punished were Spaniards, and had many friends and relatives in Spain; while Columbus, not being a native of Spain, stood alone, and was looked upon by many with unkind and jealous feelings.

Columbus now thought it best to give the people something to occupy them, and thus quiet their complaints; he therefore, as soon as he was well enough, proposed to make up a large party to visit the Golden Mountains. He placed his brother Diego in command in his place at Isabella, and took with him every strong and able man who could be spared from the settlement, and every horseman.

Four hundred men, all well armed, started with him, followed by a host of workmen and miners, and great numbers of Indians from the neighborhood. They crossed a plain, forded two rivers, and in the evening found them-

selves at the foot of a wild and rocky pass in the mountains.

These steep, high mountains, crossed only by a narrow Indian path, were very difficult for the Spaniards to climb, loaded as they were with their arms and tools for mining. A party of young cavaliers therefore determined to make an easier road, and persuaded the men by promises of reward, to help them. This was the first road made by white men in the New World.

The next day the whole army toiled up this steep road, and at length arrived at a spot where they saw the whole plain on the other side of the mountains spread out before them. It was indeed a lovely scene. Far as they could see, extended a vast and beautiful plain, matted groves of tall and splendid palm, and mahogany trees, and watered by many winding and lovely streams, while the wreaths of smoke rising from among the trees, told of its being inhabited by great numbers of natives. The Spaniards looked upon the scene with delight, and called it a perfect paradise. Columbus, from its immense extent, gave it the name of "The Royal Plain."

The army made their way down the side of the steep and rugged mountain, and came out

upon the plain with a great sound of drums and trumpets, with horses prancing and banners flying. You may imagine the wonder with which the simple natives looked upon this sight, and heard these sounds, to which their mountains had never echoed before.

It was their first sight of the horse ; all the four legged animals in these islands being very small. They supposed the horse and rider to be one animal of some new and wonderful kind, and when the soldier got down from his horse they did not know what to make of the strange sight.

At first they fled in terror, but soon returned and loaded the Spaniards with everything their plain produced, and seemed to have no idea of taking anything in return. It took the army two or three days to cross this immense plain, where every thing that met their eyes was new and wild and beautiful. They crossed two large rivers, and at length reached a chain of high barren mountains, in the region of which lay the mines of gold.

Here every thing was changed. All was rocky and bare, and the mountains seemed like a miser, who conceals his great riches by a poor and rough outside dress. And now particles of gold were seen sparkling in the

sands of the rivers, and the Spaniards supposed they had at last reached the long sought golden region.

Columbus chose a situation which seemed to be surrounded by mines, where he began to build a fortress, to which he gave the name of St. Thomas. While he was building this fortress, he sent a young man with a party to explore the country. In a few days they returned with a fine account of the signs of wealth they had seen. The forests seemed to be filled with spices, over the trees ran vines which bore delicious grapes, and the sands of every stream glittered with gold.

The natives, too, came in great numbers to the fortress, bringing gold, which they were glad to change for small trinkets of little value; and stories were told by them of pieces of gold as large as an orange, or a child's head, which had been found in the neighborhood. These golden regions, however, were always at some distance, or in some spot difficult to reach.

The fortress of St. Thomas was now nearly finished, and as it was necessary for Columbus to return to Isabella, he left it in command of Pedro Margerite, with fifty men to defend it. On their return, Columbus and his men visited several Indian villages, re-

maining in them some time, that his men might become acquainted with the natives and accustomed to their food.

They found them leading an easy and idle life, with no labor to perform but that of gathering the fruits of the earth as they grew, and spending their evenings in games and dances, or in telling stories and singing the ballads of their country.

Wherever the Spaniards went the natives came out to meet them, bringing them food and treasure, treating them with the utmost kindness, and doing all in their power for their comfort and amusement. We cannot but look upon these poor Indians with feelings of sadness, for the Spaniards whom they were treating with so much hospitality, would soon make such a cruel return, and these happy islanders, living such easy careless lives, would soon groan under the lash of their oppressors, and be forced to labor to bring forth gold for them from the depths of the earth.

CHAPTER XIV.

Caonabo gathers his Forces for an Attack—Sickness among the Spaniards—Starvation in Prospect—Cavaliers Grinding Corn—Complaints against the Admiral—Disappointments and Deaths—Ojeda sent to St. Thomas—Voyage of Columbus to Cuba—Jamaica—The Natives—The Queen's Garden—Cuba a Continent—The Paper signed.

COLUMBUS had hardly reached the settlement at the harbor, when he received a message from Pedro Margerite, whom, as you remember, he left in command of the Fortress of St. Thomas, saying that the Indians whom they had found in that neighborhood, had all deserted their villages, and he had heard that the fierce Caonabo was gathering together his warriors, to attack the fortress.

The Admiral was not much troubled by this news, for he had seen with what terror the Indians looked upon the white men and their horses, and he thought it would be an easy matter to subdue them. He therefore sent twenty men to the fortress, and thirty more to

open a better road between the fort and the settlement.

In the settlement itself, Columbus found much more to give him pain. The heat and damp of the climate, and the foul air from the marshes, caused fevers and other sickness among the men, most of whom were either confined to their beds or very weak. The medicines were all gone; provisions were failing—as much had been spoiled and wasted.

It was now necessary, in order to prevent starvation, to put them upon allowance—that is, to give each man a certain amount of food each day, and, of course, not so much as they had been accustomed to. Though they must have seen that this was the very best thing Columbus could do, yet it only gave them occasion to murmur and complain again; and the officers, who ought to have taken the side of the Admiral, complained louder than any.

The Friar Bernardo Boyle, too, thought it very hard that he should be made equal in this thing with the rest of the people. At length, the flour was all gone, and it was necessary to build a mill to grind corn—and as most of the men were ill and weak, there was no other way but to make every man work, who was strong enough, even though they were officers and men of rank.

Grinding corn was new work for these fine gentlemen, and they refused to take their share of the labor. The Admiral, therefore, was obliged to compel them to work; and this was taken by them, and their friends in Spain, when they heard of it, as a great insult, and caused a terrible outcry against Columbus.

"What business had he," they asked, "a man of low birth, and a foreigner, to compel Spanish gentlemen to perform labor of that kind?" and they hated him yet the more.

The fate of these young men was indeed a sad one. All the bright hopes with which they had come to the New World were gone, and instead of pleasure and ease, and wealth, they were poor and hungry, sick and feeble; and without the care and comforts of home.

One after another they dropped into the grave; and when their friends in Spain heard the tidings of their death, all the blame was laid upon the Admiral, who, it was said, had persuaded them, with brilliant promises, to leave their homes and accompany him, only to let them suffer, and die, in his service.

Columbus now wished to go on a voyage to explore the coast of Cuba, which he still believed to be the eastern part of Asia, but it was first necessary to settle affairs in the

colony. He therefore sent all the men who were strong enough, and who could be spared, away towards the fortress, where they could assist, if they should be needed, in a war with Caonabo, the cacique of the mountains.

From these, quite a little army of cross-bowmen and horsemen were now gathered, who were to be commanded by Pedro Margerite, while Alonzo de Ojeda was to take his place in the fortress of St. Thomas.

Columbus wrote a letter to Margerite, ordering him to take the command of this army, and explore certain parts of the island. He urged him to keep his men in good order, to treat the natives kindly, and to try and keep up good feeling with them.

Ojeda set out with his little army for the fortress. On his way, he heard that three Spaniards had been robbed by five Indians, and that the cacique of their village had concealed the Indians, and had shared with them the things which were stolen. Ojeda, who always acted rashly and without taking time to think, attacked this cacique, seized the Indians, and had the ears of one of them cut off in a public place in the village, while he sent the cacique, and his son and nephew, in chains to the Admiral. Columbus gave them a good fright, and then pretending to be

softened by the tears of their friends, he let them go free.

It was now time for Columbus to start upon his voyage to Cuba, and leaving his brother, Don Diego, in command at Isabella, and also leaving two of the largest ships in the harbor, he set sail with three vessels upon his expedition. Still supposing he had found the eastern coast of Asia, he wished to explore the southern shore of the island of Cuba, hoping to come upon some of those rich countries of which he had heard, and to find the powerful monarch who reigned over them.

While sailing along this coast, which he had never before visited, the natives crowded to the shore, looking with wonder at the ships as they moved along. They held up fruits and other provisions, to persuade the Spaniards to land, and some of them came off in canoes, offering them presents.

When they asked for gold, the natives, like all the others, pointed always towards the south, telling of a great island there, in which gold was plenty.

Columbus now steered his vessels directly south, and soon saw before him the green shores and noble forests of the beautiful island of Jamaica. He found the natives of this

island more ingenious, and more warlike, than those of Cuba or Hayti.

Their canoes were built with more care, and were beautifully carved and painted. Many of them were of very great size, and were made of the hollowed trunks of huge mahogany trees. At first, the natives looked upon them as enemies, and were inclined to quarrel; the Spaniards were obliged to defend themselves, and there were several fights between them; but afterwards they became very friendly.

Still the hope of gold proved a cheat, and Columbus returned to Cuba. Here he got entangled among a vast number of small islands, some of them very beautiful, to which he gave the name of "the Queen's Garden."

These he supposed were some of the islands which he had heard were to be found lying off the coast of Asia; and if so, he would soon come to the dominions of the Grand Khan. And many things appeared, as he sailed along, which made him feel more and more certain that he was approaching those rich eastern climes, of which he was in search.

The fine fruits and plants, the delicious odors, the bright beautiful flowers, the splendid scarlet cranes and red flamingoes, and other beau-

tiful birds, and the gaudy butterflies, reminded him of what he had read of those eastern lands.

He left "the Queen's Garden" behind him, and sailed farther along the coast. On one side was the broad, open blue sea, in which now no islands were to seen, and on the other, the high mountains and rich forests of the island of Cuba.

As they passed along, the natives came off to the ships, swimming or in canoes, bringing fruit and other presents, and in the evening, the breeze from the land brought them sweet odors, and the sound of the voices of the simple natives, as they danced in their groves, and sang their island songs.

They sailed on, coasting the shore, and again passed by numerous islands, and through narrow and shallow channels, in which the vessels often ran aground. At length the ships were so much injured, and the crew so wearied with hard labor, that Columbus was obliged to turn back.

Before he did this, he made all his officers and men sign a paper, in which they declared that they believed Cuba to be a continent—the beginning and end of India. If he had been able to sail two or three days more, he would have reached the end of the island of Cuba, and would have found out his mistake.

CHAPTER XV.

Planting of the Cross—The Speech of the old Indian Chief—He determines to accompany the Admiral to Spain—Another Cacique and his Family prepare to go—Hayti—The Storm—Illness of the Admiral—Don Bartholomew.

ON their return voyage, the sailors suffered much from fatigue and want of rest. At length they anchored at the mouth of a fine river, in a beautiful part of the island, which they had visited before. Here the natives brought them abundance of food, which gave them strength to continue their voyage.

In every place where Columbus stopped, he set up crosses as signs of the Catholic faith; and now this ceremony was performed on Sunday morning, on the banks of this beautiful river. The cacique, and a friend of his, an old Indian of eighty years, attended, and looked on quietly with awe and respect, while the Spaniards worshipped before the cross.

When they had finished, the old chief who came with the cacique, made a speech to them after the Indian fashion.

"I am told," said he, "that thou hast lately come to these lands with a mighty force, and hast subdued many countries, spreading great fear among the people; but be not therefore proud. Know that, as we believe, the souls of men have two journeys to perform after they have left the body; one to a place dismal, foul, and covered with darkness—prepared for such as have been unjust and cruel to their fellow-men: the other, full of delight, for such as have promoted peace on earth. If, then, thou art mortal, and dost expect to die, beware that thou hurt no man wrongfully, neither do harm to those who have done no harm to thee."

Columbus was affected when he heard this speech, and was happy to hear that these Indians believed the soul would live after death, as he supposed they had no such belief. He told the old man he had been sent by the sovereigns of Spain to teach them the true religion, and to protect them against their cruel enemies, the Caribs.

The old Indian was much astonished to find that the Admiral, who seemed to be so great and powerful, was only a subject, and not a

king, in his own country; and when he was told of the wealth and greatness of the Spanish sovereigns, he was very anxious to go with the Admiral, and see the wonderful country from which he came. His wife and children gathered round him with tears, begging him not to go; but it was hard to persuade him to give up the idea.

Leaving Cuba, Columbus again crossed over to Jamaica, to visit the rest of that island. One evening, he anchored in a large bay, when he was visited by a cacique attended by many followers, who remained a long time talking with the interpreter, who had been in Spain, about the Spaniards and their country.

The next day, as the ships were about sailing off, three canoes shot out from among the islands of the bay. One of them was very large, and handsomely carved and painted. In it were the cacique, his wife, two young and beautiful daughters, two sons and five brothers. They were dressed in gay mantles, and decked with jewels and feathers, and many officers of the cacique attended them.

In the prow of the vessel stood an Indian, waving a white banner, while other Indians, horribly painted, beat upon drums, and blew trumpets, which were made out of some fine black wood curiously carved. The cacique

came on board the ship, gave presents to the sailors, and then stepping near the Admiral, he said:

“I have heard of the wonderful power of thy sovereigns, and of the many nations thou hast subdued in their name. Thou hast destroyed the dwellings of the Caribs, killing their warriors, and making prisoners of their wives and children. All the islands are in dread of thee, for who can withstand thee, now that thou knowest the secrets of the land and the weakness of the people? Rather, therefore, than thou shouldst take away my dominions, I will embark with all my household in thy ships, and will go to bow down to thy king and queen, and behold thy country, of which I hear such wonders.”

Columbus was filled with pity for these poor creatures when he thought of the troubles they would be likely to meet with, in leaving their own beautiful island, and going with him to Spain, and he could not make up his mind to take them away. He therefore told the cacique that he had many places to visit before he returned to Spain, and that at some future time, he would take him and his family to his country, and he persuaded them to return to the island.

And now Columbus returned to Hayti, and

after sailing along the southern side of the island, he was obliged to seek shelter from a violent storm which lasted some days. All this time he was anxious about his other vessels, which were still out in the storm; at length, however, they joined him, and he sailed eastward, intending to make another visit to the Caribbee Islands to make farther discoveries.

But now his health gave way, and he sunk down exhausted in a death-like sleep. All through these many voyages, he had worked as hard as the common sailors, and fared no better; but he had, also, cares and anxieties of which they knew nothing. They had only to obey, and when their duties were done, they could lie down and sleep. But while others slept, the Admiral watched, though he was often drenched by storms and waves. Now he could watch and work no more. The crew thought him actually dying; and turning about their vessel, they took him back insensible to the harbor of Isabella.

When Columbus had aroused somewhat from this death-like state, he was delighted to find a brother from whom he had long been parted, standing by his bedside. This was his brother Bartholomew, who seemed to appear at the very time that Columbus could no longer do without him.

While Columbus was going from court to court, laying his plans before different kings, and before he left Portugal, he sent his brother Bartholomew to England, to see if the king of that country (Henry VII.), would assist him to undertake his voyage. Many things happened to prevent Bartholomew from making this request of King Henry, and in the meantime, he took a very long voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, and after that, he was taken prisoner by a pirate: when he escaped, he had lost everything, and was very poor.

When, after several years, he was able to apply to King Henry, he listened with great attention and interest, and agreed to send them out himself, and pay all their expenses. It was not so easy then as it is now, to hear in one country what was going on in another, and Bartholomew did not know what his brother Columbus was doing all this time.

Bartholomew now hastened to find him, and tell him the good tidings, that King Henry had consented to fit out vessels, and give him the command of them. But when he reached Paris, he heard that the Spanish sovereigns had sent Columbus upon his voyage, that the discovery of the West Indies was already made, and his brother was now at the

court of Spain, treated with the greatest honors, and getting ready to set out again for the New World.

Bartholomew now hastened to join him; but when he reached Seville, he found that his brother had just sailed. As he was an excellent sailor, the king and queen gave him the command of three ships laden with provisions for the colony, and sent him out to assist his brother.

But now he was again too late; for when he arrived at the harbor of Isabella, he heard that the Admiral had just set out upon his voyage to the coast of Cuba. Now that Columbus had returned, sick and worn out, and found that his presence was much needed, for everthing had gone wrong since he left, you may be sure he was very happy to meet this much-loved brother.

Don Diego, whom you remember had been left in command at Isabella, was a mild, peaceable man, and not at all fitted to manage the affairs of the colony. But Bartholomew was bold and active, and fearless of danger; he was generous and brave—not so gentle and kind as the Admiral, but with rather a stern manner, which made him many enemies among the complaining and discontented people he had to deal with.

It was necessary now for Columbus to have some one to act for him, and he gave his brother Bartholomew an office next in power to himself. He was called the "Adelantado." While Columbus had been absent, the whole island had become a scene of quarrelling, and violence, and confusion. To explain this state of things, we must go back to a little time before Columbus left Cuba, and with this, we will begin another chapter.

CHAPTER XVI.

Pedro Margerite and his Men—Friar Boyle and Margerite set out for Spain—Treatment of the Natives—Their Revenge—Attack on the Fortress by Caonabo—Repulsed by Ojeda—League of the Caciques—Guacanagari true to the White Men—Caonabo seized by the cunning trick of Ojeda.

You have not forgotten that Columbus had sent orders to Pedro Margerite, who was in command of the fort of St. Thomas, to take the greater part of the soldiers whom he sent to the neighborhood of the fortress, and go upon a tour about the island, leaving Alonzo de Ojeda in command of the fortress.

Instead of obeying Columbus, and starting upon his expedition, Margerite, with his soldiers, remained scattered about among the villages of the kind-hearted Indians, and behaving in such a wicked, cruel, and oppressive manner, that the anger and hatred of the natives was thoroughly aroused against them.

Don Diego, who heard of this, wrote to

Margerite, blaming his conduct as it deserved, and ordering him to start at once upon his expedition, as he had been commanded to do by Columbus. The answer of Margerite was an angry and impudent one. He said that Don Diego had no right to control and order him, and he would not obey him. He was encouraged in this conduct by all the idle cavaliers of the colony, who pretended to look down upon Columbus and his brothers, and despise them as men of low birth.

Besides these, Friar Boyle, who hated Columbus, and was by this time quite tired of life in the New World, joined with Margerite and the rest of the discontented ones, and they soon made quite a strong party. Friar Boyle and Margerite took the control of this party upon themselves, and seizing some of the ships in the harbor, they all set sail for Spain.

They were both favorites with the king, and supposed that the story which they had prepared to tell him would be excuse enough for their leaving as they did. They intended to complain to him of the cruel and unjust conduct of Columbus and his brothers, and lay the blame of the terrible state of things in the colony upon them.

And now that Margerite was gone, the

army in the island was left without a head. The soldiers roved about where they pleased, doing as they liked and hard were the sufferings of the poor natives under their hands. At length, they became so enraged at the cruelty and oppression practised upon them, that they refused any longer to furnish food to the Spaniards.

The soldiers now seized on everything they could find, and also destroyed and wasted the property of the Indians, who, at length, from kind and hospitable friends, became bitter and violent enemies. They killed the Spaniards whenever they could find them alone or in small parties, and the cacique of one of their villages put to death ten of their soldiers, and set fire to a house where forty sick Spaniards were lodged, and then attacked a fortress, and kept the Spaniards in it shut up till assistance arrived from the settlement.

But the most powerful and cunning enemy the Spaniards had, was Caonabo, the cacique of the mountains. He was a bold, brave warrior, with a very large tribe of Indians under him, and three brave brothers to help him. The sight of the fortress going up in the midst of his dominions had enraged this proud cacique—and learning from the spies he had sent to examine the fortress, that only fifty men had been left to guard it, and that the army of Margerite were roving

without a head, he determined to attack the fortress, and kill, burn, and destroy as he had done at the first place where the Spaniards built a fort.

This cunning chief had now a very different person to deal with, however, from any he had attacked before—and in Alonzo de Ojeda he met his match. Ojeda, it seems, feared neither Indian nor white man; he had never been wounded, and thought nothing could harm him; and upon this idea he acted.

Having carefully examined the fortress himself, Caonabo gathered together ten thousand warriors, armed with war-clubs, bows and arrows, and lances, and led them secretly into the forest, intending to surprise Ojeda and take possession of the fortress. But he found Ojeda ready for him, carefully drawn up in his fortress, which was on a hill nearly surrounded by a river.

Caonabo then besieged the fortress for thirty days, and reduced the little band of Ojeda to great distress. Sometimes the soldiers would suddenly rush forth and attack the Indians, killing many of them. Others of the natives grew tired and went back to their homes; and at length, Caonabo gave up the idea of taking the fortress, and drew off his warriors,

filled with admiration of Ojeda—for the Indians admire and honor a brave enemy.

He now determined to persuade all the principal caciques of the island to band together, and surprise the settlement of Isabella, and kill all the Spaniards wherever they could be found.

The island of Cuba was divided into five great domains, as they were called, over each of which reigned a powerful cacique, who had many smaller caciques under him. Two of these chieftains are old acquaintances of ours; Caonabo, the fierce Carib chieftain of the Golden Mountains, and Guacanagari, the chief on whose shores Columbus was wrecked, and who, though suspected by the Spaniards of being an enemy, was always the firm, true friend of the white men.

I shall not give you the names of the other caciques, or of their domains, for the names are long, and would only trouble you. It is enough to say that three out of five agreed to the plan of Caonabo, and entered into league with him to kill all the Spaniards in the island.

But when the plot was made known to Guacanagari, he refused to join them, or to take any part against the white men. On

the contrary, he took care of a hundred Spaniards in his own city, supplying all their wants.

This made the other chiefs very angry with him, and they did all in their power to trouble and injure him. One of these caciques killed one of his wives, and Caonabo carried another off; still they could not make him take part with them against the Spaniards—and as his dominions lay nearest to the settlement, they were for some time not able to carry out their plan.

As soon as Columbus returned from Cuba, and while he was still ill in bed, Guacanagari visited him, and made known to him the plots of the other caciques against him, offering to bring out his warriors, and fight against them by the side of the Spaniards.

Columbus, who felt grateful for the kindness this chief had ever shown him, was glad to have the Spaniards see that they had been wrong in suspecting him to be an enemy. He always continued a firm friend and warm admirer of the Admiral.

Columbus hoped that as these plans of the caciques of the island were not very well formed, it would be an easy thing to overthrow them. He was too ill to go out to bat-

tle himself—his brother Diego was not by any means the man to send upon a warlike expedition, and Bartholomew was a stranger and much disliked among the Spaniards. The only way, then, was to take these caciques in turn, and deal with them according to their characters—attacking some, trying to make friends of others, and employing cunning and skill to get the better of the rest.

He succeeded in conquering one, and coaxing another; but what to do with the terrible Caonabo was a question more easily asked than answered. It was a dangerous thing to attack him in his wild rugged mountains, with his fierce brothers and his bold warriors around him; and until he could be put out of the way, the settlements would never be safe, neither could the mines, which were in his neighborhood, be worked.

While puzzling over this question, the mind of Columbus was set at rest by a proposal from Alonzo de Ojeda, to go himself into the dominions of the mountain chieftain, and bring him either as a friend or a prisoner to the settlement.

From his followers, Ojeda chose ten men, bold and fearless like himself, and mounting

their horses, they set out through the forest, into the wild region where Caonabo lived, and making their way directly into one of his largest villages, they drew up before the dwelling of the cacique, to whom Ojeda pretended to have a message of peace from the Admiral.

He was well received by Caonabo, who had fought with him, and who looked upon him with admiration as a brave warrior. Ojeda urged the cacique to go with him to the town of Isabella, and make a treaty of peace with Columbus, promising him a present of the great bell in the church in the harbor, upon which the natives looked with wonder and astonishment.

At length the cacique consented to go; but when they were ready to set out, Ojeda was surprised to find a powerful army of warriors ready to accompany them. He begged the chief not to take such a force upon a mere friendly visit, to which Caonabo proudly replied, "that it would not do for a great prince like himself, to go forth poorly attended."

Ojeda now suspected that the cacique intended unfair play, and he determined to try cunning too, and if possible, get the better of him. One day, when the army halted, Ojeda brought out a set of manacles of the

brightest steel, which were polished so highly, that they shone like silver.

These, he told the cacique, were worn by Spanish monarchs on great occasions, and had been sent as a present to him. He told him to bathe in the river, and then to put on these beautiful ornaments, and mount upon his horse, and that in this same way he should return to his own dominions, to astonish his subjects.

The cacique was charmed with the beauty of these ornaments, and with the idea of mounting one of those splendid great animals, of which his people were in such terror. He bathed in the river, then mounted behind Ojeda, and the manacles were fastened upon his wrists.

The horses were then made to prance about, and the Spaniards took a wide sweep, till the trees were between them and the savages. Then they gathered round Caonabo, drew their swords, and threatened to kill him instantly if he made the slightest noise. They then bound him fast to Ojeda with cords, and putting spurs to their horses, they dashed off through the woods, and after a long journey they entered the city of Isabella, the fierce chief bound behind Alonzo de Ojeda as a prisoner.

Columbus was much pleased that this powerful and dangerous enemy was now in his power. The chief met him with a proud and lofty look, and boasted that he had secretly prowled around the city of Isabella, and intended to destroy it as he had the other fortress. He did not seem to feel the least enmity towards Ojeda for the trick he had played upon him, but admired him all the more for his cunning.

When Columbus entered the prison where Caonabo was confined, all who were present rose out of respect.

Caonabo, however, would never rise to salute any man but Ojeda. He said the Admiral had never dared to come into his dominions and take him; only Ojeda was bold and brave enough for that, and only to him would he show any sign of respect.

Columbus did not dare to let so powerful an enemy go free. He kept him, therefore, a close prisoner in part of his own house, till he could be sent to Spain, but treated him with the greatest kindness and respect. One of the brothers of the cacique gathered an army to attack the fortress of St. Thomas, hoping to make prisoners of some of the Spaniards, and exchange them for his brother.

Alonzo de Ojeda heard of his plan, how-

ever, and coming upon him suddenly with his little troop of horse, he scattered his army, killed many of his warriors, and then took the brother of Caonabo prisoner.

CHAPTER XVII.

Arrival of Supplies from Spain—Slaves sent back—The Caciques prepare to attack the Fortress—Columbus meets and scatters them—The Natives obliged to toil—Their sufferings—Sad death of the good chief Guacagari.

ABOUT this time, four vessels came from Spain, bringing physicians, workmen, and supplies for the colony, and the sick, starving Spaniards received them with joy. Columbus received a letter from the king and queen which pleased him much; the sovereigns approved of all that he had done, and requested him to return to Spain to attend a meeting which was to be held to settle the difficulties between Spain and Portugal as to their discoveries.

Columbus could not then leave the colony, but he sent home the ships as quickly as possible, and in them his brother Diego, that he might be there to contradict the tales which Friar Boyle and Pedro Margerite had carried to the sovereigns.

All the gold which could be collected was sent in these ships; also many kinds of fruits, and plants, and five hundred Indian prisoners, to be sold in Spain as slaves. We are sorry to be obliged to say that Columbus could do so cruel a thing as this; but we must remember, as some excuse for him, that the Spaniards and other nations had been accustomed to keep as slaves the prisoners whom they took in war; Columbus was anxious, also, to do all he could to repay the sovereigns for the great amount of money they had laid out in fitting out his expeditions.

The Admiral was now quite well again, and many of his men were gaining strength from the food brought them from Spain, when Guacanagari, the friendly chief, brought word to Columbus, that the other caciques of the island, who had leagued to destroy the whites, were assembled in the plain, two days' march from the city of Isabella, and were preparing to attack the settlement.

Columbus immediately determined not to wait for the Indians to attack him, but to start forth with all the men he could muster, and meet them on the plain. So many of the men were still sick and feeble, that Columbus could gather but two hundred footmen and twenty horsemen; he had, also,

twenty blood-hounds, of which terrible creatures the Indians were as much afraid as of the horses.

Guacanagari, also, joined them with his men—but they were all little accustomed to fighting, and could not be of much assistance. When all was ready, Columbus and his little army set forth towards the plain, to attack the savages. These had come out in such immense numbers, that they had no fear of the whites, but thought they should easily conquer them.

Columbus divided his men into small parties, and scattered them in the woods which surrounded the plain, and when they burst suddenly upon the Indians from all quarters, with a great noise of drums and trumpets, and the firing of guns, the Indians fled in terror; while the cannon, which were hidden among the trees, and which seemed to burst forth with thunder and lightning, added to their confusion.

And now Alonzo de Ojeda rushed upon them with his twenty horsemen, trampling them under foot, and thrusting them through with lance and sword. The blood-hounds, also, were let loose upon them, and springing upon the naked savages, they seized them by the throat, dragging them to the earth, and tearing them to pieces.

The Indians now scattered in all directions, yelling and howling fearfully. Many were killed; many others climbed to the top of high rocks, from which they cried in piteous tones for mercy, promising to submit to the Spaniards; and for a time the league of the caciques was broken up. Guacanagari and his men had done little more than look on; but his joining with the Spaniards, drew upon him the anger and hatred of his countrymen.

Columbus now went through the island, subduing all the tribes, and compelling every person over fourteen years of age to furnish every three months, a certain amount of gold dust. The caciques were obliged to furnish, much more than the common Indians; and when there was no gold, each person was to bring twenty-five pounds of cotton.

When the Indian brought his gold or cotton, a copper coin was hung round his neck, as a sign that he had brought it; and any Indian found without this medal, was seized and punished. Fortresses were built all over the island, to keep the Indians in order, and men employed to make them work.

And now the poor Indians, who had once roamed happy and free from care over this beautiful island, were slaves indeed; their

hearts were filled with grief and despair when they saw that the white men, whom they had received as friends, were indeed their masters, and that for the future they would be compelled to toil in their service.

It was not in their nature to work, and they never had been obliged to do it; all that they needed was easily procured, and their lives had been easy and happy. But now these pleasant lives were at an end; the song, and dance, and games in the forest, were heard no more; or if sometimes, when the toils of the day were over, they met for a national dance, their songs were sad and mournful; they sang of the times which were past—before the whites came, bringing sorrow, and labor, and slavery, and they sadly bade farewell to liberty and happiness.

They had hoped, at first, that the Spaniards would remain but a short time upon the island, and that the ships would soon spread their white wings, and take them back beyond the sky. They had often asked the Spaniards when they were going back to Heaven. A strange idea they must have had of Heaven, if they thought it sent forth such beings as the Spaniards had proved. Now all hope of ever being rid of them was at an end, and they fixed upon the

desperate plan of starving them to death, even if they perished with them.

They therefore destroyed their cornfields, stripped the fruit from the trees, and pulled up their vegetables by the roots. The Spaniards suffered much, and many of them would have starved if supplies had not arrived from Spain. They pursued the poor natives into the mountains, hunting them from cave to cave, till thousands perished from hunger and sickness in the dens and caverns of the mountains, and the rest, seeing it was vain to resist these terrible white men, humbly submitted to their power. So great was their fear of them, that Spaniards could now go alone all over the island, and the natives would carry them on their shoulders.

The good chief, Guacanagari, will appear no more in our story, and so I will now tell you his sad fate. At a time when Columbus was absent from the island, the Spaniards insisted that the people of this chief should furnish gold as well as the other Indians, and they found it hard and distressing to do so.

The poor cacique, who had always befriended the white men, now had to bear their cruelty, and also the murmurs of his subjects, and the hatred of his countrymen; and unable to endure this weight of trouble, he retired to

the mountains, where he died alone and in sorrow.

It would have been better for this chief, perhaps, had he joined with his countrymen in driving the white men from the island; but his love and admiration for Columbus were so great that he could not turn against him. He was kind, affectionate, and generous—better able to rule a gentle and peaceful people, than to engage in strife and bloodshed.

The character of this man, who is called a savage, shines out brightly beside that of most of those from the so-called civilized world, who had come to teach the true religion to these ignorant heathen.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Enemies of Columbus in Spain—Injustice to him—Aguado sent to the Colony—Slaves sent back by the Queen—Cruelty of Aguado—Nobleness of Columbus—Aguado returns to Spain—Discovery of rich Mines—Caonabo sent to Spain—Dies on the Voyage—Reception of Columbus—Third Expedition.

WHILE the Admiral was thus laboring to bring things into a right state in the colony, Margerite and Friar Boyle were in Spain, doing all they could to ruin him in the eyes of the sovereigns. They accused Columbus of forcing the people of the colony to labor while they were sick and feeble, and of punishing them severely for the slightest offences. But they said nothing of the idleness and ill-conduct of the Spaniards, or of their many crimes which deserved punishment.

These false and wicked stories were added to by other discontented persons who had left the colony, and by persons of rank in Spain, whose friends had gone to the New World

with Columbus; and such tales were so constantly poured into the ears of the sovereigns, that at length, even Queen Isabella thought there must be some person sent out to inquire into the state of the colony, and the conduct of the Admiral.

The sovereigns now forgot, too, the rights of Columbus, and the powers they had given him, and they proclaimed through the kingdom that all persons who were born in Spain might settle in the island of Hispaniola, and might go to trade with the natives or make private voyages of discovery. Columbus felt hurt and grieved that this permission should have been given without his knowledge.

Soon after this the ships arrived in Spain which Columbus had sent back, giving an account of his voyage along the coast of Cuba, and carrying specimens of gold, plants and animals of the country. This in some measure softened the ill-feelings of the sovereigns, but did not prevent their sending out a person to inquire into the conduct of Columbus.

The name of the person whom they sent was Juan de Aguado, and he was one of the very worst persons they could have chosen for the purpose. He had once been to Hispaniola, where he had been treated with

great kindness by Columbus, who, when he returned to Spain, gave him a letter to the sovereigns, requesting them to show him favor. The sovereigns thought Columbus would not feel so much hurt if a friend was sent upon this errand, as if they had sent a stranger or an enemy.

You remember that Columbus had sent in these ships five hundred Indian prisoners, to be sold as slaves in Spain. The kind Queen Isabella could not decide what was best to do with these poor creatures; she therefore called together the priests, and asked them to consult together and determine whether, as these Indians had been taken prisoners in war, it would be right to keep them as slaves.

The priests could not agree; and Queen Isabella, allowing her own heart to decide the matter, ordered that the prisoners should be sent back to their own country.

Juan de Aguado, the person who was sent to inquire into the conduct of Columbus, set sail from Spain with four caravals laden with provisions for the colony, and with these ships, Don Diego, the brother of Columbus, returned to Hispaniola. Aguado was a weak-minded and mean man, who, as soon as power was placed in his hands, was puffed up with pride and a sense of his own importance.

He forgot the kindness of Columbus to him, and forgot, also, the commands he had received from the sovereigns. When he arrived at Isabella, Columbus was absent in another part of the island, and Aguado proceeded at once as if the government of the island had been placed in his hands.

He paid no respect to Don Bartholomew, who commanded at Isabella in the place of his brother; but had the letter of the sovereigns, in which the object of his being sent to the island was stated, proclaimed by the sound of the trumpet, and then proceeded at once to seize and imprison the public officers, and invited all who had complaints to make, to come to him and they should be attended to.

He already spoke of Columbus as a criminal, and said he was keeping out of the way, as he feared to have his conduct inquired into; he even talked of taking a body of horse and going to arrest him. The whole town was thrown into confusion; it was thought that Columbus and his brothers were now ruined, and some thought the Admiral would lose his head.

Columbus, who was attending to his duties in another part of the island, heard of the arrival of this person, and of his insolent conduct, and he hastened at once to Isabella

to meet him. All who knew how quick-tempered Columbus was, and how careful of his rights as Admiral, expected a terrible quarrel when they met.

But the temper of Columbus had been subdued by his life of trial, and he thought it beneath him to enter into a quarrel with a weak boaster like Aguado; above all, he had so high a respect for the sovereigns, that he would receive with honor any messenger they might send, no matter whom it might be.

He therefore received Aguado with civility—ordered the letter he had brought from the sovereigns to be again proclaimed to the people, and told him he was ready to agree to anything they might propose.

Aguado took this as a sign of cowardice. And now every miserable creature who had any ill-will to the Admiral, or who had been punished for their crimes, came forward with their complaints, and every trouble that had fallen upon the colony was laid to the bad management of the Admiral.

Aguado listened eagerly to every story, and having got together enough, as he thought, to ruin the Admiral and his brothers, he prepared to return to Spain. Columbus now determined to go also, for he thought it time that he should appear before the king

and queen to answer these false charges of his enemies, and to explain the causes of the troubles and distresses in the colony.

Just as the ships were ready to sail, one of those fearful whirlwinds, called "Uricans" by the Indians, burst over the island. It was the most terrible storm that even the natives had ever seen, and they supposed it was sent in punishment for the crimes of the white men.

Three of the ships which were anchored in the harbor were sunk, and all on board perished; the other vessels were dashed against each other and thrown on the shore and wrecked. They must wait, now, till one of the injured vessels could be repaired and put in sailing order, and another built out of the wrecks cast on the shore. Before they were ready to set sail, news came of very rich mines, which had been discovered in the southern part of the island by a young Spaniard named Miguel Diaz. This young man, in a quarrel, had wounded one of his companions, and fearful of being punished, had fled from the settlement and taken refuge on the south side of the island, on the spot where the city of San Domingo was afterwards built.

This village was governed by a female cacique, who became much attached to the

young Spaniard, and wishing to keep him near her, she told him of rich mines in her neighborhood, and urged him to bring his countrymen to settle there. Diaz hastened back, hoping by this good news to escape punishment, and in this hope he was not disappointed.

The Admiral in particular was much pleased to have the news of this lately-found gold mine to carry back to Spain. Bartholomew, the brother of Columbus, at once started off to visit these mines with Diaz and his Indian guides. They led him to the bank of a river, where he found more gold and in larger pieces than even in the mountains of Cibao, of which he carried many specimens to the Admiral.

Columbus was delighted with the specimens of gold brought by his brother, and ordered that a fortress should be at once built near the mines, and that they should be diligently worked; and with this joyful tidings for the sovereigns, Columbus set out with a lighter heart for Spain, having left his brother, Don Bartholomew, commander in his place, with the title of Adelantado.

The two vessels, which now set sail for Spain, were crowded with two hundred and twenty-five passengers—the sick, the idle, the wicked and unruly ones of the colony, a

wretched and disappointed crew. Columbus sailed in one of the vessels, and Aguado in the other.

Thirty Indians were also sent with these vessels, among whom was the once terrible Caonabo, with one of his brothers and a nephew. The Admiral had assured these Indians that after he had presented them to the king and queen, he would return them safely to their own country and set them free, hoping thus to make strong and useful friends of these brave warriors.

Head winds and calms made the voyage of Columbus a long and tedious one, and nearly a month after he started, we find him still in the neighborhood of the Caribbee Islands, into one of which he was obliged to steer his vessels to procure provisions. Here they were attacked by the fierce and savage natives, who were soon put to flight, however, but not before several of them were taken prisoners.

One of these was a woman, the wife of a cacique, who fought fiercely and was taken just as she was strangling a Spaniard who had pursued her. When Columbus was about to leave the islands, he set all these prisoners free and gave them presents; but this woman utterly refused to leave the vessel.

She had become much attached to the brave chief Caonabo when she heard that he was a Carib, and how brave and powerful a warrior he was; she also felt great pity for him in his misfortunes, and determined to stay by him and accompany him to Spain. But the poor woman was soon left to grieve alone, for the proud Carib chief, unable to endure the thought of being a prisoner to the white men, pined away with grief and mortification, and died before the voyage was ended.

Columbus left the Caribbee Islands in April, and when another month had passed, he had made but a small part of the voyage, owing to contrary winds—and the provisions were so far gone, that he was obliged to put every man on an allowance of six ounces of bread, and a pint and a half of water daily.

Soon they were suffering the horrors of famine, and it was proposed by some of the men that they should kill and eat their Indian prisoners, or throw them overboard, that there might be fewer mouths to feed. It was almost impossible for Columbus to prevent the men from committing this cruelty, by representing to them that these men were their fellow-creatures, and some of them Christians like themselves.

He begged them to have a little patience, and try and hold out a little longer, as he was certain they would soon see land. The men ridiculed the idea; but the next morning proved that he was right, for land appeared—and the very land of which Columbus had spoken—the southern cape of Portugal.

On the eleventh of June, they were once more on the shores of Spain, and the vessels anchored in the bay of Cadiz. The men who had gone forth full of hope and joy, and expecting to come back laden with treasure, now crawled forth from the ships, sick, feeble, poor and worn down with hunger and the long, dreadful voyage.

"These men," says an old writer, "carried in their yellow faces a mockery of that gold they had gone to seek, and had nothing to tell of the New World but tales of sickness, poverty, and disappointment."

Columbus himself, either because he supposed himself in disgrace with the sovereigns, or because of some vow he had made, appeared dressed in the long robe of a monk, with a cord around his waist, and his beard hanging long upon his breast. On his way to meet the sovereigns, he carried with him the Indian prisoners, covered with ornaments of gold—and among them the brother of Caonabo,

with a heavy collar and chain of gold about his neck; he displayed also the collars, bracelets, and other ornaments of gold which he had brought from the New World.

Columbus was received by the sovereigns very differently from what he had expected; he was treated by them with great kindness and respect, and nothing was said of the stories told by Father Boyle and Margerite, or of the accounts carried back by Aguado.

The sovereigns listened again with pleasure and interest while Columbus gave them an account of his voyage along the coast of Cuba and of the discovery of the rich mines in the southern part of Hispaniola. Columbus now made known to them his wish to make farther discoveries along this coast of Asia, as he supposed it to be, and asked for eight ships—two to be sent directly to the colony with provisions, and six to be placed under his command for his voyage of discovery.

The sovereigns promised to do as he wished immediately, and probably intended to keep their word. But Ferdinand now had many other things upon his mind, and was engaged in wars with other nations, which took all the money he had to spare. It was not, therefore, till the spring of 1497, that Isabella was able to show the interest she felt in Columbus and his

discoveries, and to make preparations to send him out on his third expedition.

All that was done for him now was owing to the kindness of this good queen; for Ferdinand looked coldly upon him and his plans, and others high in power were his enemies. But when everything else was ready for the voyage, a new difficulty arose. It was found impossible to persuade men to go upon the expedition. The New World did not seem to them so bright, and beautiful, and rich, as it had once seemed. It was looked upon only as a land of poverty and distress.

Columbus now proposed a plan most unfortunate for the colony, and at which we cannot but wonder. This was, that all criminals and persons sentenced to banishment (except some of the very worst), should be sent to people the new colony.

Another year passed before the two vessels which were to be sent to Hispaniola were ready to go; and a much longer time was taken to fit out the other six vessels which were to be placed under the command of Columbus, who was so wearied and vexed at these many delays, that he was tempted at one time to give up the expedition entirely.

These delays were caused by men of influence and power, who hated Columbus and

were determined to ruin him if possible. These men followed him with their hatred till the very moment he embarked, putting every thing they could in his way, and doing all in their power to vex and trouble him.

Just as he was about sailing, one of these men, who had tormented Columbus to the utmost of his power, again attacked him with insulting language. For once the temper of the Admiral got the better of him, and without waiting to think, he struck the man to the earth.

Great use was made of this circumstance by his enemies, who carried the story immediately to the king and queen. They said that if Columbus had so little control over his temper as to knock down a public officer, without doubt all the stories of his oppression and ill-treatment of the colonists were true.

As soon as Columbus took time to think, he was very sorry that he had been so hasty; and immediately wrote a humble letter of apology to the sovereigns, begging them not to let this rash act influence them against him, but when tales were told them by his enemies, to remember that he was absent, envied, and a stranger.

CHAPTER XIX.

Third Voyage—A Region of Fire—Sufferings from Heat and Thirst—Trinidad—Discovery of the Continent of America—Sickness of Columbus Reaches Hispaniola—Trouble awaits him—Xaragua—Anacaona, the "Golden Flower of Hayti"—Plot of the Indians—Rebellion of Roldan.

At length, in May, 1498, we are happy to find Columbus started upon his third voyage. He took now a different route from any he had taken before, steering more to the south—as from many things which he heard when among the islands, he had become convinced that there was some great continent south of them; this he supposed to be the continent of Asia.

From the Canary Islands, he sent three of his vessels with provisions for the colony, and with the other three he continued his voyage. The ship in which Columbus sailed was decked, the others were caravals such as I described in the beginning of this story.

From the Canary Islands he steered south.

west to the Cape de Verde Islands—and I hope you have not forgotten to follow his track on the map. You will see that these islands are within the tropics, where the heat is intense. Columbus had no sooner reached this hot, sultry climate, than he was taken down with a fever, and suffered intensely also with gout. However, he still continued to give directions as to the sailing of the vessels.

From the Cape de Verde Islands, he steered southwest; and here the breeze all died away, and they remained becalmed upon the sea, in a region of such intense heat, that the sailors began to think the stories must be true of the burning belt surrounding the earth, and that they were now approaching this region of fire.

The air was like a heated furnace; the tar melted from the sides of the ships and ran down into the sea; even the salt meat became spoiled; the casks of wine and water burst, and the heat in the hold of the vessel was so great, that no one could remain there long enough to prevent the injury to the provisions.

The men lost all life and strength, and begged the Admiral to take them from that burning region. This and his intense suffer-

ing from the gout, induced him to steer towards the northwest, in hopes of finding the Caribbee Islands, where he might repair his ships and obtain a fresh supply of water and provisions.

After sailing for some time through heat and calms, and a smoky suffocating atmosphere, they came suddenly into the most delightful region. Cool breezes played over the water and filled their sails, calming the fevered blood of the poor sailors, and giving them new courage and strength.

At length, when not more than a cask of water remained in each vessel, a sailor spied from the mast-head three mountains very near together. As they drew near them, they found that it was in reality one island, and for this reason Columbus called it "La Trinidad," or the Trinity, which name the island still bears. And passing round this island, he landed on a promontory, and for the first time set his feet upon the Western Continent, though he supposed it to be only an island. Here he had many interviews with the natives, from whom he procured many large and beautiful pearls.

And now Columbus had discovered the continent of America, though he never knew it himself, or thought that he had done more

than to open a new way to the eastern part of Asia. He wished much to continue along that coast, and make farther discoveries; but his provisions were almost gone, and the supplies he was taking to the colony were in danger of spoiling.

He was suffering also extremely from the gout, which had made it impossible for him to walk during the greater part of the voyage; and he was troubled also with a complaint in the eyes, caused by fatigue and watching, which made him nearly blind. He therefore determined to go at once to Hispaniola, to rest and recover his health, while he would send his brother, the Adelantado, to continue his discoveries.

After a dangerous and difficult voyage among small islands and narrow straits, he arrived at last at the spot, on the southern part of the island of Hispaniola, where you remember he had ordered a fortress to be built, in order that the newly-found mines might be worked. Here, sick, feeble, and almost blind, he was received into the arms of his brother, the Adelantado.

Columbus had supposed that on arriving he should be able to rest after his long and tedious voyage, passed in great suffering of body and anxiety of mind; but he found new

troubles and distresses in the island, to explain which, I must go back and tell you what had been going on there all the time Columbus was detained in Spain.

When he sailed for Europe, more than two years before, his brother Bartholomew went immediately to these gold mines near the village of the female cacique. Here he built two fortresses—one called St. Christoval, and the other San Domingo, which stood on the spot now occupied by the city of the same name.

Leaving men to defend these fortresses, the Adelantado set out to visit the province of Xaragua, which was governed by one of the five caciques who had not yet been conquered. It was one of the most beautiful districts of the island; the inhabitants were finely formed, and had more pleasant and graceful manners than those in any other part of the island.

With this cacique lived his sister, "Anacaona," the wife of the famous chief Caonabo, who had died on the voyage to Spain. This woman was very beautiful and graceful, and of a fine mind; her name, in the Indian language, meant the "Golden Flower." After her husband was seized and taken prisoner, she took refuge with her brother; she never had any feelings of anger or dislike towards

the Spaniards, but seemed to admire them, and look upon them as beings more than mortal. She begged her brother, the cacique, to take warning by the fate of her husband, and try and gain the friendship of the white men.

Don Bartholomew entered the province of this cacique with drums beating, banners flying, and trumpets sounding, the horsemen riding in front. The cacique met him with a large army; but when the Adelantado assured him that he had come merely on a visit of friendship, he immediately dismissed his army, and took Don Bartholomew to his residence.

As they came near the dwelling of the cacique, thirty beautiful young females, who belonged to his household, came to meet them, waving branches of palm trees, and singing the ballads of the island. When they came before Don Bartholomew, they knelt at his feet and laid down their palm branches.

Then came the beautiful Anacaona, borne upon a litter by six Indians. She was dressed in a robe of cotton of many gay colors, with flowers around her head, and neck, and arms, and received the Adelantado with graceful ease and kindness. Don Bartholomew remained with them several days, entertained with feasts, and amused with the games and dances of the

natives. He arranged with the cacique, that at certain periods, his people should have ready cotton, hemp, and other articles produced in that region; and then taking a friendly leave of these kind people, he set out with his little army for Isabella.

He found the colony in a terrible state. The people were worn down by sickness and want of provisions. The Spaniards, too, had behaved in such a cruel and oppressive manner towards the natives, that they had determined to rise upon them and put all the white men to death. The Adelantado heard of this in time, and attacking the Indians in a village where they were sleeping, he took them all prisoners.

Two of the caciques who were leaders in this plot he put to death; but not the natives alone were punished. Finding that a Spaniard had injured one of these caciques, and that the latter had good cause to be enraged against him, he ordered the man to be severely punished.

Hearing now from the cacique whom he had visited, that the promised supplies were ready, he marched for Xaragua at the head of his army to receive them. So great a quantity of cotton and provisions had been collected by the natives, that Don Bartholo-

mew was obliged to send to the settlement for a caraval, to be sent round to convey them home.

The kind people treated them with the same hospitality which they had shown before, and when the Spaniards saw how rich and fertile was this region of country, how sweet the air, how tranquil the sea, and how kind and gentle the natives, they called it a perfect paradise. Had the simple-hearted people who inhabited this region been able to foresee the troubles which were coming upon them, they would have seen that the serpent had already entered this paradise.

When the caraval came upon the coast, it was visited by Anacaona and her brother, who looked at the vessel with awe and wonder. And when the cannon burst forth with thunder and lightning, and smoke, they were filled with fear until the Adelantado assured them that it would do them no harm. When they went on board, they were more and more filled with admiration; and as the vessel moved off before a gentle breeze, they stood looking at each other in amazement, not knowing what to make of this new wonder.

During the absence of the Adelantado, new troubles had arisen in the colony. These

were brought about by a man named Francesco Roldan, who had been raised by Columbus from a low station, and given one office after another, till at last he made him chief judge of the island. He was a man of fine talents, but of no education; very driving and industrious, but full of meanness and impudence.

Roldan had seen the man by whose kindness he had risen, leave the island to return to Spain, as he supposed, in disgrace, and he began at once to contrive to raise himself by means of the fall of Columbus. He was next in power to Don Bartholomew; and as the brothers of Columbus were disliked among the Spaniards, he thought it would be easy to ruin them now, and make himself governor of the colony.

He therefore went among the people, constantly throwing out hints against Columbus and his brothers, saying that the Admiral was now in disgrace and would never return; that his brothers took no interest in the Spaniards, and merely kept them as slaves, to build houses and fortresses for them, or to help them seize from islanders their treasures, which they kept to enrich themselves.

All these artful hints at length so excited

the people against the family of Columbus, that they formed a plot to seize and kill the Adelantado; this plot was, however, discovered by accident and broken up.

When the caraval returned with the supplies from the cacique of Xaragua, Roldan advised the men to seize the vessel and declare their independence of these foreigners. They might then lead lives of ease and quiet, and do as they pleased for the future.

Of all these plans Don Diego was told; but being mild and gentle, without much energy, he feared to come to an open quarrel with the people of the colony, and thought the wisest plan would be to give Roldan employment in some other part of the island.

He sent him, therefore, with a small force, to subdue the Indians in the plain, among whom there were symptoms of rising against the whites. Roldan took this chance to form a strong party for himself against the brothers of Columbus. He had seventy strong and well-armed men with him, who were ready for anything desperate; and he made friends of all the discontented caciques, by promising that they should, for the future, lead lives of ease, and no longer be obliged to bring supplies to the colony.

He now boldly proclaimed himself the

enemy of the Columbus family, who, he said, had no authority from the king; and whenever he and his men did anything in direct opposition to their commands, they shouted "Long live the King!"

The party of Roldan then proceeded to break open the store-houses, from which they supplied themselves with arms, clothing, and provisions; they then marched off to the plain to attack Fort Conception, which was commanded by Miguel Ballister; but that brave old officer held it nobly till help should arrive from the settlement.

CHAPTER XX.

Fort Conception besieged by Roldan—Plots against the Life of Don Bartholomew—Roldan departs for Xaragua—Revolt of the Indians of the Plain—Noble Conduct of Mayonabeg—His Sufferings and Imprisonment—Roldan's Deception—Refuses to sail for Spain.

IN this state of confusion and trouble Don Bartholomew found the affairs of the colony when he returned, and at first it was hard to tell what to do. There was the brave old Ballister shut up in the fort on the plain with a few men, surrounded by the party of Roldan and hostile Indians, and perhaps starving to death; and this plot had been carried on so secretly, that the Adelantado could not tell whom to call upon, or who was friend or foe.

He however collected what forces he could, and marched to the assistance of Ballister, by whom he was gladly received into the fort. Here, from one of the windows, he addressed the rebel Roldan, ordering him to give up at

once his office as Judge, and submit to his authority. Roldan, however, had no idea of submitting. He called out to the Adelantado that he was a tyrant and oppressor, and said that he had taken the side of the oppressed, and intended to keep it.

He tried to induce the soldiers in the fort to join his party, and laid a plan to seize the person of the Adelantado when he should leave the fortress.

Matters were now in a terrible state in the island. The natives, seeing the quarrels among the Spaniards, were constantly rising and declaring they would furnish no more supplies, and the party of Roldan was increasing every day. The Spaniards, not knowing whom they might depend upon, were obliged to keep themselves shut up in their forts; and provisions and powder were nearly gone.

The Adelantado remained in the fort on the plain, knowing the plots which were laid against his life; and the Spaniards who were true to him were daily losing strength and spirits. Happily for them, the two ships now arrived which were sent by Columbus, with supplies and troops; they brought, also, the order from the sovereigns, that the Adelantado should be obeyed as second in command to Columbus. This and the news that Colum

bus was in favor with the king and queen, and on his way to the colony with a fleet, made the rebels tremble.

The Adelantado now left the fortress, and marched to St. Domingo without meeting any opposition; from here he sent to Roldan, offering pardon to him and his followers, if they would give up their rebellion at once, and come back to their duty.

Roldan was afraid to venture into the power of Don Bartholomew, and kept out of his way; he said, however, that when the Admiral arrived, he would submit to him. He and his followers were now proclaimed rebels and traitors by the Adelantado. His next movement was to lead his followers away to Xaragua, that beautiful and charming region which Don Bartholomew and his men had visited. He told his followers that in this lovely paradise they should live lives of ease and pleasure, and no longer be obliged to labor as they had done under the rule of Don Bartholomew.

Hardly were this rebellious party out of the way, however, when the Indians of the plain again rose up against the Spaniards; and their cacique, forgetting the kindness Don Bartholomew had shown him, formed a plan to attack the fort and destroy all the white men. The Adelantado heard of this in

time, and marched directly for the plain. The cacique and his family fled to the mountains, and took refuge with the chief Mayonabeg, whose name I once told you to remember.

This was the cacique who at first fought with the Spaniards, at a spot where they landed, and the next day came on board their vessel with only two or three of his followers. The Adelantado pursued the flying chieftain to the mountains; but he found the undertaking a terrible one. The mountains were wild, and rocky, and steep; there were rivers to wade, and tangled forests to pass through, from which the Indians would sometimes burst forth with fearful yells, shoot their arrows at them, and then hide again among the rocks and thickets.

Don Bartholomew at length arrived at the city of the cacique Mayonabeg, and to him he sent a messenger, telling him to give up the rebel chief, promising him his friendship if he did so, but threatening, if he did not, to lay waste all that region with fire and sword.

The cacique sent the Adelantado this answer: "Tell the Spaniards that they are tyrants and shedders of innocent blood, and I desire not their friendship. This cacique is a good man and my friend; he has fled to me for refuge,

I have promised to protect him, and I will keep my word."

Mayonabeg kept his promise nobly. His villages were burned, his country laid waste, and he and his family were driven to the dens and caves of the mountains. His people begged him to give up the chief whose coming had brought such trouble upon them; but he would not listen to them for a moment. He said he would endure everything rather than it should ever be said that Mayonabeg had betrayed his guest.

For three months these chiefs were hunted from place to place among the mountains. At length the spot was found where Mayonabeg was concealed. Twelve Spaniards disguised themselves as Indians, wrapped palm-leaves about their swords, and coming upon him secretly, they seized him with his wife and children, and carried them prisoners to Fort Conception. They were soon, all but Mayonabeg, allowed to go free.

The chief who had gone to him for refuge was taken soon after. He expected nothing but death; but Don Bartholomew was not a cruel man, delighting in blood when no good was to be gained by it. He therefore kept the two chiefs prisoners, in order to prevent more disturbances among the Indians; and

then he returned to St. Domingo, where, after being separated from him for two years and a half, he again met his brother, the Admiral.

As soon as Columbus had arrived, he gave out publicly that he approved of all his brother had done, and called Roldan and his party traitors and rebels. These people had been kindly received by the natives of the region to which they fled.

Soon after they reached that part of the country, the three vessels which Columbus had sent from the Canary Islands laden with supplies for the colony, were obliged to put into that coast. Roldan was at first frightened, thinking they had been sent to seize him and his followers; but when he found out who they were, he bade his men keep quiet, while he went on board and assured the captains that he had been put in command of that part of the island.

He soon succeeded in getting a supply of arms and provisions from the vessels, and in persuading many of the men, who, you remember, were criminals and vagabonds, to join his party. It was not till the third day, that one of the captains, named Carvajal, began to suspect what kind of people Roldan and his party were; but it was then too late.

As the ships were detained by contrary winds, it was determined that a large party should go to San Domingo by land, headed by one of the captains, named Colonbo, a relation of the Admiral. No sooner had Colonbo landed with his men, than he found himself deserted by all but eight of them. Those who left him immediately joined the rebels, who received them with shouts of delight.

Colonbo returned to the ships in great trouble, and the three vessels immediately put to sea. Carvajal, however, landed and remained with the rebels, hoping he might persuade them to return to their duty. All he could get from Roldan was a promise that as soon as the Admiral returned, he would come to San Domingo and give him an account of the reasons of his conduct, and make an agreement with him as to the future.

He wrote the same thing in a letter to the Admiral, and with this Carvajal left. When he arrived at San Domingo, he found Columbus already there and gave him Roldan's letter, telling him at the same time, that he thought the rebels might easily be brought back to duty by a promise of pardon.

Indeed the rebels soon began to assemble in a place between San Domingo and the

fortress in the plain, which was commanded by old Miguel Ballister. Columbus wrote to Ballister to be on the watch against these rebels, telling him also that he might promise full pardon to Roldan and his men, if they would return to duty and proceed at once to San Domingo.

He also offered free passage to all persons who wished to return to Spain, hoping that all the idle and discontented would thus be induced to leave the colony.

Ballister was a kind, brave, noble looking old soldier, whose grey hairs the rebels could not but respect ; still they would not listen for a moment to the offer of Columbus, even through him. They declared that they would have nothing to say to any man, who should bring them a message from Columbus, excepting Carvajal.

The Admiral now ordered every man in San Domingo to appear armed ; but as the story had got about that they were to march against Roldan and his men, and many of the people had relatives and friends among the rebels, Columbus was surprised to find how few there were ready for service. Some pretended to be sick, others lame, and when all who could be collected were gathered together, there were only seventy men, and many of these

declared themselves unfit to go upon the expedition.

Columbus saw that it would never do to show this small force to the rebels, but found that he must come to some more peaceable arrangement with them. He first sent off the five ships to Spain, in order to get as many unruly ones as possible out of the island.

He wrote to the sovereigns of the rebellion of Roldan, and begged that some wise and learned lawyer might be sent out to settle affairs, and to act as judge over the island. Roldan and his followers also sent to Spain, giving their own account of their rebellion and throwing all the blame upon Columbus and his brothers, whose unjust and oppressive conduct, they said, had driven them to take the course they had.

These men had friends in Spain who were people of influence; and by them this story was believed and repeated to the king and queen.

And now Columbus sent a mild and kind letter to Roldan by Carvajal, urging him to return to his duty, and promising him pardon. The rebels, however, felt their power, and would not submit unless many things they asked were granted. Miguel Ballister wrote to the Admiral, urging him to agree to

whatever they might demand; for, as he said, the party of Roldan was daily becoming stronger, and men from the fort were constantly joining them, and unless some agreement was made with them, and the rebels were shipped for Spain, even the life of the Admiral would not be safe.

Thus advised by his officers, and compelled by the state of things around him, Columbus made an arrangement with the rebels, by which it was agreed that they should all depart for Spain in two vessels, which should be ready in fifty days.

Columbus was obliged to give these men, who had been behaving so ill, a certificate of good conduct, and an order for pay up to the time of their sailing. The rebels now started for that part of the coast from which the vessels were to sail; but there were many delays in fitting out these vessels, and Roldan and his followers being somewhat afraid to return to Spain, and by no means willing to give up the free and idle lives they were leading, seized upon this as a reason for refusing to sail. They said the vessels were not in a proper condition to go to sea, or well supplied with provisions, and they would not set out in them.

Now they began to make new demands;

and Columbus, determined to put an end to these troubles, if possible, set sail for that part of the island accompanied by some of his officers, to meet Roldan himself.

In the interview that took place between them, it seemed as if Roldan were a conqueror making his own terms, rather than a rebel who ought to be thankful even for a pardon. He demanded, among other things, that those of his followers who chose to remain in the island should have lands given them, and that his office of Judge should be restored to him.

It is hard to see so noble-hearted a man as Columbus in the power of these miserable creatures, and we must not think it owing to want of courage that he gave up to the demands of this rebel. He was alone among discontented people, his followers daily deserting him, and his own government looking coldly upon him, and there seemed to be nothing left for him but to yield to the demands of Roldan and his men.

As soon as this rebel was restored to his office, he behaved with all the pride and haughtiness that we might expect from so mean a creature. He and his followers made still larger demands of land and slaves; and one of the first things he did was to appoint

Reguelme, one of the leaders in the rebellion, to the office of judge. This vexed Columbus, as it was a thing Roldan had no right to do.

He soon found that this man, Reguelme, on pretence of building a farm-house, was, in reality, building a fortress, and sent to him to cease building immediately.

The two vessels were sent off as soon as possible, and in them sailed many of the rebels, taking with them Indian slaves, and daughters of the caciques, whom they had enticed away from their homes. Columbus wrote to the sovereigns that he had been obliged to make these terms with Roldan, and that they must not think it necessary to agree to them. He urged them again to send out a learned judge, and also begged that his son Diego, who was now grown up to manhood, might be sent out to assist him, for he was beginning to feel old and infirm.

CHAPTER XXI.

Secret Visit of Alonso de Ojeda to the Island—Roldan sent to meet him—Ojeda visits Xaragua—Is driven off by Roldan—A Love Story—Moxica seized and hung—The Enemies of Columbus in Spain—Bobadilla—His oppressive Conduct.

Soon after this, Columbus heard that four ships had anchored in the western part of the island, and that the crews had landed, and were cutting dye-woods, and carrying off the natives to sell them as slaves. Their leader was Alonzo de Ojeda, the same daring young cavalier, who, you remember, took possession of the Carib chief, Caonabo, by such a cunning trick.

The Admiral did not at all like the secret manner in which Ojeda had visited the island; but he knew that it would take a man as bold and cunning as Ojeda himself to deal with him. He therefore sent Roldan, thinking it a good plan also to give him and his followers employment, and thus keep them out of mischief.

Roldan was very glad to be the one chosen to undertake this business. He had gained all he wished by his rebellion, and now he seemed to be upon his good behavior, to make up for his past ill-conduct. He left San Domingo with two vessels, and sailed round the western part of the island, landing not far from where the vessels of Ojeda lay.

Here he took twenty-five of his boldest men, and went to meet Ojeda, who was out with a party at some distance from his ships. When they met, Roldan asked him what were his reasons for visiting that lonely part of the island so secretly, and without first making known his arrival to the Admiral.

Ojeda replied that he had been on a voyage of discovery, and had been obliged to put into that coast to repair his vessels and get supplies of provisions. It was found afterwards that Ojeda was in Spain when letters arrived from Columbus, telling of his visit to the shores of South America; and at the same time, he sent many beautiful pearls, which he had found there.

Ojeda now determined to visit those shores himself; and being assisted by several wealthy men, he fitted out four ships, and sailed for South America. In one of these vessels sailed a merchant of Florence, whose name was

Americus Vesputius, after whom our continent was very unfairly named.

This fleet sailed along the coast of South America further than any one had sailed before, and then visited the Caribbee Islands, where they had a fight with the natives, many of whom they took as prisoners, in order to sell them as slaves in Spain.

Ojeda promised Roldan that as soon as his ships were ready for sailing, he would come to San Domingo, to visit the Admiral. Roldan, fully believing him, returned to San Domingo; but Ojeda had not the slightest idea of going to meet the Admiral. As soon as his ships were ready for sea, he sailed round to that beautiful province of Xaragua, where Anacaona, the Queen of Caonabo lived, and of which she was now the cacique.

When Roldan left this part of the island, many of those who had joined him in his rebellion remained there. These men received Ojeda and his followers kindly; and when they found that Ojeda was now acting in opposition to the Admiral, they began to complain loudly of his conduct toward them, saying that he had treated them with cruelty and injustice, and withheld their pay from them.

Ojeda at once determined to take the part

of these lawless men, and putting himself at their head, he offered to lead them to San Domingo, and oblige the Admiral to yield to their demands. Fortunately, just at this time, Roldan, who had heard of their plans, arrived there with a large band of daring men, and attacking Ojeda, he drove him to his vessels and from the coast.

The followers of Roldan thought that they had done so bravely in driving Ojeda from the island, that they must be well rewarded; and they began to make large demands of him, asking that these beautiful provinces should be divided among them. Roldan who was now anxious to gain a good character, would not agree to their wishes without orders from the Admiral.

Other troubles now broke out, to explain which it is necessary to tell you a short love-story.

There was a young man of the name of Guevara, who had been banished from San Domingo for bad conduct, and sent to the western part of the island, that he might embark in the ships of Ojeda; but he was too late, the vessels having sailed when he reached there. Roldan received him kindly on account of his cousin Moxica, who had been one of the leaders and friends of Roldan in the late

rebellion; and he was also kindly received at the house of Anacaona, who still remained friendly to the Spaniards.

This female caciquè had a young and beautiful daughter, to whom Guevara soon became much attached, and wished to marry her. The Indian beauty consented to marry him, and Anacaona, who liked the young Spaniard, was much pleased with the match.

It seems that Roldan was also very fond of this young Indian girl, and he was very much enraged when he found that she preferred Guevara to him. In order to separate them, he immediately sent Guevara from that part of the island, but he soon returned secretly, and hid himself in the house of Anacaona.

Finding that Roldan was determined to separate him from the Indian girl, he set about raising a party against him, from his old followers. These men who had been fond of Roldan, as their leader in rebellion, hated him as a judge, and readily agreed to take sides with Guevara against him.

They formed a plot to seize Roldan, and either kill him or put out his eyes. It was well for Roldan that he heard of this in time to put a stop to it. Seizing Guevara, by the side of his intended bride, he sent him with

seven of his followers to the fortress of San Domingo.

Now, when Moxica heard that his cousin Guevara had been so treated by Roldan, he was greatly enraged. He hastened to gather a powerful force with which to rescue his cousin, and then to seize Roldan and the Admiral, and put them to death.

The Admiral was at Fort Conception when he heard of this plot, and he saw that it must be broken up immediately. He had but a few men with him; but choosing from them nine or ten whom he knew he could trust, he came suddenly upon Moxica in the night, and seizing him and some of his party, he carried them off to the fort.

Columbus now determined to set an example to these lawless men, which should terrify into order. He therefore ordered that Moxica should be hanged from the top of the fortress. The wretched man begged for a confessor, and a priest was sent for; but the poor creature lost all courage as the time of his death drew near, putting it off as long as possible, and accusing others instead of making his own confession, till at length Columbus, disgusted with his cowardice, and out of all patience with him, ordered him to be thrown

from the battlements. The other leaders were soon seized, and all was again quiet.

While Columbus was thus doing all in his power to restore quiet to the colony, his enemies in Spain were working as busily in order to ruin him. It was said that Columbus was enriching himself in the colony, and that he soon intended to throw off the authority of the king and queen of Spain, and declare himself sovereign of the New World.

The king was constantly surrounded by complaining men, begging for their pay, which they said Columbus had withheld from them; and a crowd of these people assembled round the palace, holding up bunches of grapes, and saying that they were made so poor by following Columbus, that these were all they had to eat.

His sons were followed by curses and insults where ever they went. "There go," cried the people, "the whelps of him who discovered the land of vanity and delusion, the grave of Spanish gentlemen."

Ferdinand believed all these stories, and even Isabella, from hearing the same things so often repeated, began to think there must be truth in them; and it was determined to send out some man to inquire into the state

of affairs in the colony, and if these things were true, to take the command out of the hands of Columbus.

About this time the vessels arrived which carried home the rebels and the discontented ones of the colony. You remember that they took slaves with them, and that they carried off the daughters of some of the caciques. When they were asked how they came in possession of these slaves, they all answered that Columbus had given them power to take them.

At this Queen Isabella was very angry. "What right," said she, "has the Admiral to give away my subjects?" And she ordered them all, as well as those Columbus had sent before, to be returned to their own land.

The name of the person who was sent out to inquire into the conduct of Columbus was Francisco de Bobadilla. He is called by some an honest and religious man; but you can form your own opinion of him as you read of his acts.

When Bobadilla reached the harbor of San Domingo, he heard from a canoe which visited the ship, that the Admiral and his brother, Bartholomew, were in another part of the island, and Don Diego was in command

at San Domingo. He heard, too, of the death of Moxica; and that others of the rebels had been hung.

As the vessels entered the river, he saw on each bank a gibbet with a Spaniard hanging on it. All these were plain proofs, he thought, of the cruelty of Columbus.

The news soon spread through the town that a person had come, sent out by the king and queen, to inquire into the state of affairs, and to set matters right. Every man who had been punished by Columbus, or who had any complaint to make of him or his brothers, hurried to Bobadilla, and he listened to them all and believed all he heard.

He immediately ordered Don Diego to deliver up to him the prisoners in the fortress. This Don Diego refused to do; and Bobadilla then had a paper read in public, which proclaimed him governor over all the newly discovered lands and islands. This he had been commanded to have read only, in case Columbus was found guilty.

Bobadilla now demanded again that the prisoners should be given up to him; but as Don Diego refused to do anything of the kind without an order from the Admiral, Bobadilla assembled all the sailors from the ships, and

the rabble of the town, marched to the prison, broke open the doors, and carried off the prisoners.

He then took possession of the house of Columbus, making that his residence; seized upon his arms, gold, plate, jewels, horses, books, and letters, paying out of the money he found there those who said the Admiral owed them for their labor. He now continually spoke of Columbus as if he had been tried and found guilty, and said that he would be sent home in chains, and neither he nor any of his name would ever return to govern the-island.

CHAPTER XXII.

Columbus ordered to appear before Bobadilla—He obeys—Is put in Chains—His Brothers imprisoned—Villego—Columbus sent to Spain—Indignation of the People—Treatment at Court—A new Disappointment—Ovando sent to the Colony—Fourth Expedition of Columbus—Columbus refused Shelter in San Domingo—Fate of his Enemies.

COLUMBUS was at the fort in the plain when he heard of these strange proceedings of Bobadilla. At first, he thought this must be the judge he had himself requested the king and queen to send out, and supposed that he had taken upon himself to act as he had done without any authority. He knew that he himself had acted for the best, and that he had been true to the king and queen in all he had done, and he could not believe that they would send out a man to take his government from him, without even giving him a chance to speak for himself.

He therefore wrote a mild letter to Bobadilla, telling him to be careful as to what he did, and sent orders to San Domingo contrary

to those given by him. He, however, soon received from Bobadilla a letter, signed by the king and queen, commanding him to obey Bobadilla, and an order from him to appear immediately before him at San Domingo.

In the meantime, this man had gathered together all the troops, pretending to believe that Columbus had called on the caciques in the neighborhood to join him in resisting his power. He also seized Don Diego, put him in irons, and sent him on board a caraval, without giving him any reason for this treatment.

As soon as Columbus received the order of the sovereigns, he set out alone to obey the command of Bobadilla. The moment he arrived, he was also seized, put in irons, and confined in the fortress. Even his enemies seemed shocked by this cruelty to the Admiral, and at first, no one could be found who would consent to put the irons on him.

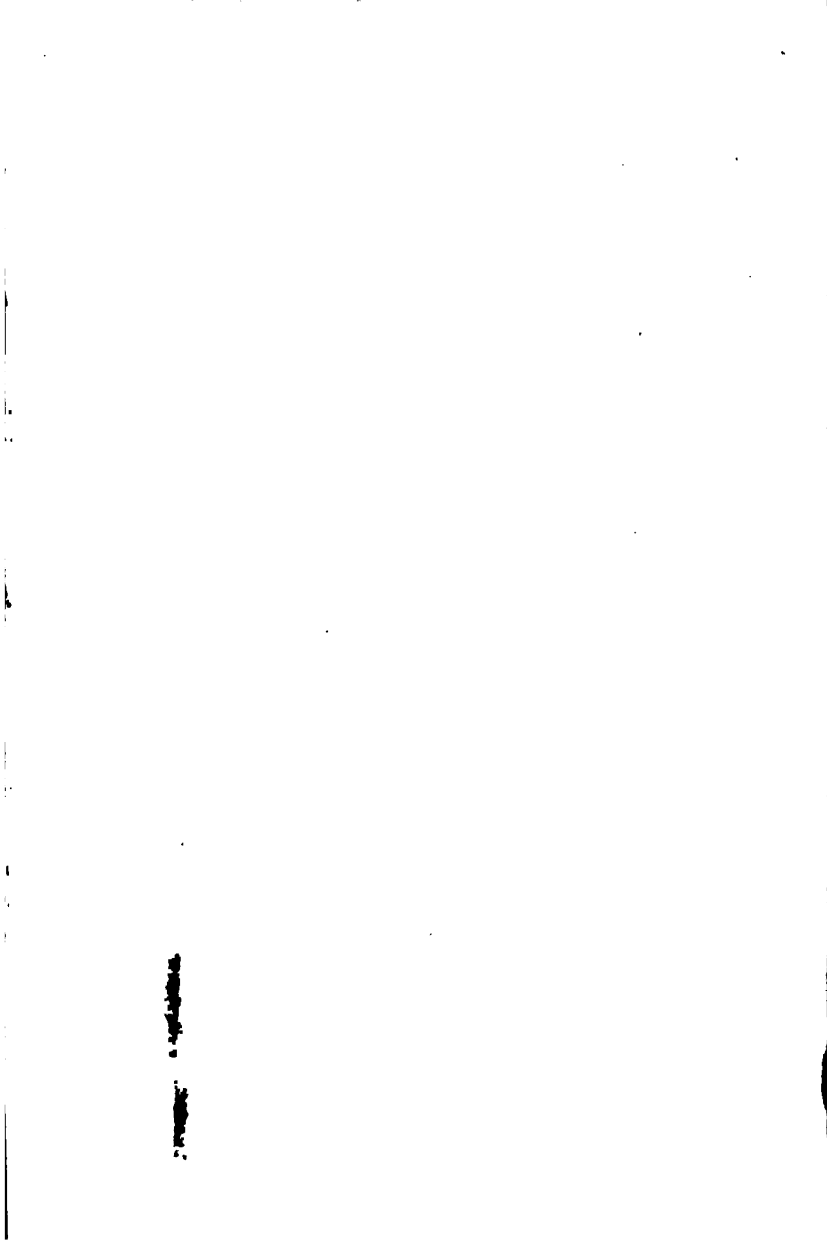
Columbus bore all these injuries in proud silence; he would not stoop to ask a favor from so weak and violent a man as Bobadilla; and he felt sure that the sovereigns had never intended such cruelty towards him, and that when the truth was known, they would be ashamed that they had wronged him thus.

He even obeyed the commands of Bobadilla, and wrote to his brother, the Adelantado, urging him to submit to the sovereigns, and hasten to San Domingo. Don Bartholomew did so, and was put in irons as soon as he arrived, and confined on board a caraval. Bobadilla now had the three brothers in his power. He kept them separate, not allowing them to see each other or any other person, or to know for what reason they were imprisoned, or what were the charges against them.

These brothers were not only dragged down from office and thrown into prison, but they had to bear the insults and curses of a lawless mob who assembled round their prisons, blowing trumpets, and shouting all manner of vile slanders against Columbus and his brothers.

Alonso de Villego, the man in whose charge they were placed, was a just and kind man, and seemed to feel a deep sorrow and sympathy for them in their troubles. When he entered the prison of Columbus with a guard, to lead him to the ship in which he was to sail for Spain, he found him sunk in the deepest sadness.

Columbus supposed that it was the intention of Bobadilla to put him to death, without giving him an opportunity to say a word in





Columbus-returns in Chains.

his own defence, and that his name would be handed down to future times as stained with every crime. When Villego entered his prison, he supposed that his death-hour had come, and that he was to be led immediately to the scaffold.

"Villego," said he, sadly, "whither are you taking me?"

"To the ship, your excellency, to embark," was the answer.

"Villego, do you speak the truth?" asked the Admiral.

"By the life of your excellency, it is true," replied Villego.

These words gave great comfort to the Admiral, who felt as if restored from death to life. The caravals set sail in October, bearing Columbus, loaded with chains, from the shores he had discovered and given to the world, while the rabble assembled on the shore shouted his name in mockery, and heaped insults and curses on him to the last.

Villego and the captain treated Columbus with the greatest kindness; and fortunately for him, the voyage was a safe and short one. Villego proposed to take off his irons, but Columbus would not consent.

"No," said he, proudly, "their majesties commanded me to submit to whatever Boba-

dilla should order in their name. By their authority he has put these chains upon me; I will wear them till they shall order them to be taken off, and I will afterwards preserve them as relics and memorials of the reward of my services."

"He did so," says his son Fernando in his history; "I saw them always hanging in his cabinet; and when he died, he requested that they might be buried with him."

When Columbus was brought to Cadiz a prisoner in chains, there was as great an excitement in the city—and as soon as it was known, all over the country—as when he returned after his first voyage of discovery. No one stopped to ask the reason; it was enough that Columbus, whose labors and trials, and perseverance all knew, should be sent home in chains like a common criminal, from the world he had discovered; and a cry of anger rose in Cadiz and all over Spain.

The king and queen were filled with astonishment; and when a letter was read to the queen, which Columbus had written to a lady of the court, she could not restrain her tears of sympathy. Columbus was immediately sent for to come to the court, and money was sent him to pay all his expenses; the sovereigns also wrote him a letter, saying how grieved

and angry they were that he had been made to suffer such cruel treatment.

Columbus, whose heart was devoted to the king and queen, was much cheered by this letter, and he appeared at court, not as a disgraced and ruined man, but in a rich dress and with a train of attendants. He was received with every token of respect and affection; and when the queen saw him approach, and remembered all he had done and all he had suffered, the tears fell from her eyes.

Columbus had borne everything else in silence and without any outward show of feeling; but on seeing the tears of his queen, he could refrain no longer. He fell upon his knees, and wept and sobbed so bitterly, that for a long time he could not speak. The king and queen raised him from the ground, and tried to cheer and encourage him by every means in their power. As soon as possible he addressed them, giving them the reasons for his conduct in all that he had done, and explaining the difficulties of his situation in the island.

The king and queen then told him that Bobadilla had not acted according to orders from them in what he had done, and they expressed their anger and grief that Colum-

bus had been so shamefully treated. They said that Bobadilla should be immediately removed from his command, and Columbus restored to his place and all his losses made up to him.

Columbus hoped from this that he should be sent back to the colony immediately; but in this hope he was disappointed. The fact was that Ferdinand was not so much the friend of Columbus as he had pretended to be. He had no idea what great power he was placing in his hands when he promised that he should be governor over all islands and continents that he might discover. Finding, now, that these countries were of very great extent, and that new discoveries were constantly being made, he feared that the power of Columbus would soon be greater than his own, and he determined now, that if possible, Columbus should never be restored to his office.

It was now determined to send out another officer to take the place of Bobadilla, and govern the colony for two years; after which time, Columbus was promised that he should return as governor. The person who was sent out was Nicholas de Ovando, a cunning and ambitious man, who proved to be cruel to the natives and unjust to Columbus.

Meantime, things in the colony were daily

growing worse and worse under the rule of Bobadilla. The Spaniards were allowed to do as they pleased, and the poor natives were obliged to work harder than ever, in order to produce great quantities of gold. The queen was distressed at the tidings which reached her from the islands, and hastened to send Ovando, who was to take the command from Bobadilla, and send him home when the vessels returned.

The fleet which was to carry out Ovando set sail on the 13th of February, 1502. It was the largest fleet which had yet sailed to the New World, consisting of thirty vessels laden with provisions of all kinds for the colony. Twenty-five hundred persons sailed in this fleet, among whom were many men of rank with their families.

Columbus remained many months in Spain, waiting for employment and trying to settle his own affairs; but on the arrival in Portugal of some vessels laden with rich goods and precious articles from India, by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, he again became uneasy to start upon a voyage of discovery, being sure that he could find a shorter passage to that same country by sailing west.

You remember that when he sailed along the coast of South America, he supposed he was upon the eastern part of the continent of

Asia, and that he continued along the northern shore as long as the state of his vessels and his own health would permit, and was then obliged to return to Hispaniola.

His idea would be a difficult one to explain to you; but to tell it in a few words, he supposed that if he continued along between the northern coast of South America and the island of Cuba, he would find some strait about where the Isthmus of Darien or Panama now is, and sailing through that, he would find the country of India, and thus be able to make the circuit of the globe.

The sovereigns agreed to his plans, but gave him strict orders not to touch at Hispaniola till his return, as his presence might cause excitement and trouble in the island. There were the usual delays, however, and he did not set out till May, 1502. Columbus was now about sixty-six years of age; an old man, to be starting upon voyages of discovery in unknown seas. His health, too, was much injured by his hardships and troubles; but his mind was bright and active as ever.

He sailed from Cadiz with four caravels and a hundred and fifty men. His brother, Don Bartholomew, commanded one of the vessels, and his son, Fernando, then in his fourteenth year, accompanied him. He had

a safe and quick voyage, and reached the Caribbee Islands about the middle of June. One of his vessels proved not to be a good sailer, and he steered for Hispaniola, to exchange it for one of those which carried out Ovando. This was contrary to orders; but he hoped he would be excused for doing so, when his reasons were known.

When Columbus reached the harbor of San Domingo, he found the fleet which had brought out the new governor, Ovando, ready to set sail again. Bobadilla was to be sent home in this fleet, and he had taken with him large quantities of gold, and one piece of very immense size as a present to the sovereigns, by which he hoped to gain favor in their eyes.

Roldan and many of his followers were also to be sent home with these vessels, and all of them were taking home quantities of gold, which the poor natives had been forced to dig for them from the mines.

Columbus sent an officer on shore to explain to Ovando the reason of his visit, and to ask for a vessel in exchange for one of his. This was refused, and also his request that he might shelter his vessels in the river, as he saw a violent storm approaching.

Columbus then dispatched another message

warning the fleet not to sail, as a terrible tempest would soon be upon them. This he knew by his acquaintance with the signs of the weather in those regions; but as all at present seemed fair, the others only ridiculed his warning, and called him a false prophet.

The Admiral was grieved and angry at being refused assistance and shelter in the very island he had discovered, and he sailed away keeping his vessels as close to the shore as possible, hoping to find some bay or river in which to take refuge.

In two days the storm came; the vessels of Columbus, after being driven about at the mercy of the winds and waves for several days, all at length reached a harbor safely. But the fleet which had set out for Spain was not so fortunate. Bobadilla and Roldan, and many other of the most violent enemies of Columbus went down with all their gold and treasure, and were never heard of more. Many of the vessels were lost, a few returned to San Domingo, much shattered, and the only one which reached the shores of Spain safely was the weakest of the whole fleet; in this was four thousand pieces of gold belonging to the Admiral, which his agent was taking home to Spain for him.

Columbus set out as soon as his vessels were

in sailing condition, steering at first in a southern direction till he reached Cape Honduras, and then proceeded eastwardly; there was a terrible tempest with heavy rain, thunder and lightning. The vessels were very much injured, the sails torn, and provisions damaged by the water.

The crew were nearly worn out with fatigue and terror, and many times they expected instant death.

The Admiral, too, most of this time was very ill in his cabin, and often thought that the time of his death had come; still he gave directions as to the sailing of the vessels, and issued all his orders as usual. After forty days sailing through storms and tempest, they reached the point where you will see on the map the coast makes a sudden bend.

Turning this point, they had immediately an easy and pleasant wind to waft them onwards, and therefore, Columbus called this Cape Gracias á Dios, or thanks to God. They now continued along the shore of Guatemala, which we now call the Mosquito shore; and reached Costa Rica, or the Rich Coast, as it was afterward called from the gold and silver mines found in the mountains near it.

Here the natives appeared adorned with ornaments of rich gold; and they told of a

country west of them where the people wore bracelets, crowns, and anklets of gold, and ornamented their dresses and furniture with it. Columbus supposed this country to be that belonging to the Grand Khan, and that India could not be far off.

He understood the natives to say that the sea continued round to this land of wealth; and thus he sailed on hoping to find the strait of which he was in search.

But the natives along this shore were fierce and hostile, and as soon as the ships appeared they would sound their drums, and blow their shells, and yell and whoop, till numbers were collected on the shore armed with clubs, and lances, and wooden swords.

Soon after this the seamen became discouraged; wind and current were against them, and the ships were much damaged by a worm common in that region, which pierced the wood in all directions, and made the ships leak badly. The sailors feared to go on further, thinking that everything was against them, and Columbus gave up his search for the strait, and returned to visit the mines, which were said to be very rich in some parts of the coast.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Storms—Water-Spout—The Mines—The Cacique Quibian—The Settlement—Diego Mendez visits Quibian as a Spy—Quibian Siesed—His Escape—His Attack on the Settlement—Murder of Tristan and his men—Horrors gather round the Spaniards—They abandon the Settlement.

STORMS and tempests followed them and kept around them on their way; the sea ran mountains high, the heavens were bright with constant flashes of lightning, and the loud claps of thunder were often taken by the sailors for guns of distress from the other vessels.

Their first sight of a water-spout, which now passed close by their vessels, filled the sailors with terror, and they were much alarmed to see sharks swimming around and following the vessels, as they believed it to be a sign that they would soon be wrecked, and their bodies become food for these horrible creatures.

At length, after battling with winds and

waves for three weeks, they reached the harbor, near which they expected to find the gold mines. The natives were at first fierce and hostile, but the Admiral soon succeeded in making friends of them; and they brought gold to exchange for other articles; the mines were about six miles distant.

Quibian, the cacique of that part of the country, came to visit Columbus and afterwards visited the ships. He was a tall and powerful man, silent and stern; but when Don Bartholomew visited him at his village near the mines, he received him with politeness; coming unarmed to meet him, and taking his seat upon a large stone which one of his followers drew out of the river.

He readily furnished Don Bartholomew with guides to the mines; though he seemed not quite well pleased at the visit of the Spaniards to his dominions. The guides led them several miles from the village, through thick forests of large and splendid trees, to the top of a high hill which overlooked a large extent of country. The guides told the Spaniards that all around them, as far as twenty days' journey, the country abounded in gold.

The whole soil seemed to be filled with particles of gold, and the Spaniards picked up a quantity from the ground, and from among

the roots of the trees. Columbus and his brother now determined to found a colony here, and Don Bartholomew agreed to remain with part of the men, while Columbus returned to Spain for more men and supplies for the colony.

Eighty men were chosen to remain, and they immediately set to work to build their village. The houses were made of wood and thatched with palm leaves, and were built on the high bank of a creek. A store-house was built in which they placed part of their powder and shot, and provisions, while the rest was left on board one of the caravals which remained for the use of the colony.

When the houses were built and Columbus prepared to sail for Spain, he found that the water of the river, which had been swollen by rains before he sailed into it, was now so low that he could not sail his vessels over a bar at the mouth of the river. He was therefore obliged to wait till it should rain again and swell the river.

The cacique Quibian had not expected that these white strangers who had come to visit the mines, were going to remain and take possession of part of his dominions, and he beheld the building of the town with anger and astonishment, and made up his mind at

once to drive them from the land, or else to destroy them. For this purpose he sent messengers to all his fighting men, ordering them to assemble near his dwelling on pretense of making war upon some other tribe of Indians.

One of the officers of Columbus whose name was Diego Mendez, noticing these movements of the Indians, suspected what was the real object of this gathering of the forces. He was a man of great courage, and strongly attached to the Admiral; and he now formed a plan which required all his skill and courage to carry out.

With only one companion, he went as a spy to the residence of the cacique Quibian, who, he heard, was confined to the house, having been wounded in the leg with an arrow. This famous chieftain lived on the crest of a hill, in a dwelling which was surrounded with statues, on which were three hundred heads of those he had slain in battle.

With this horrible sight before him, Mendez tried to enter the enclosure; but the son of the cacique, a fierce young savage, drove him back with a terrible blow. Mendez then took out a box of instruments, and told the boy that he was a doctor who had come to cure his father's wounds; he also made him a present of a comb, scissors, and looking-glass,

and taught him how to trim his hair, with which the young Indian was much delighted.

Mendez, however, with all his cunning, did not manage to get a sight of the cacique, but he saw enough to convince him that the attack was to be made upon the white men as soon as Quibian was recovered from his wound. An Indian interpreter also informed the Admiral that Quibian had everything ready to come upon the settlement in the night, burn the ships and houses, and kill all the Spaniards.

When Don Bartholomew heard of this, he determined to prevent it by taking possession of the cacique himself, before he was able to carry out his plan. He therefore took with him Diego Mendez, and seventy-four men well armed, and went up the river in boats to the village of the cacique, where he landed before the Indians had any idea of his coming.

He chose from his men Diego Mendez and four others, and went up to the dwelling of Quibian, and ordered the others to come on secretly, and, at a signal which he gave them, they were all to rush up and surround the house, and take as prisoners all whom they should find.

The cacique hearing that Don Bartholomew was coming, came out and sat in his door, and

requested him to come on alone. Don Bartholomew did so, and asked about his wound, and took him by the arm; this was the signal: the four other men rushed forward, and though Quibian struggled fiercely, he was soon bound, hand and foot, a helpless prisoner. The rest of the party of Spaniards had, in the meantime, surrounded the house, and taken the wives and children of Quibian prisoners, and many of his principal subjects.

The cacique was carried to the boats by the pilot, Juan Sanchez, a man of great strength and courage. The Adelantado charged him not to let his prisoner escape, to which the pilot replied that if the cacique escaped from his clutches, he would give them leave to pluck out his beard, hair by hair.

When they reached the boat, he bound his prisoner tightly to one of the seats by a strong cord. The night was very dark, and as they rowed down the river, the cacique moaned and complained that the cords were bound so tightly as to give him great pain.

The pilot, in pity, loosed the cord, and held the end of it in his hand; no sooner was this done than the cunning Indian plunged into water, and dived to the bottom. The pilot was obliged to let go the cord, or he would have been drawn down after him; and the

cacique, after swimming for a time under water, rose and escaped to the shore.

Sanchez, the pilot, was much mortified that, after all his boasting, the Indian should have been too cunning for him. Whether he lost his beard or not, history does not tell.

Columbus now supposing that Quibian had perished in the water, and that the Indians were completely subdued, sailed from the river, and anchored his ships about three miles from the shore, waiting for a wind to sail for Hispaniola. The cacique, whom he supposed to be drowned, was watching the vessels as they sailed away with his wives and children and friends on board, and his heart was filled with rage and with the desire to kill every Spaniard that was left in his dominions.

For this purpose he gathered his warriors together, and came upon the settlement at a time when the Spaniards were by no means expecting such an attack; the Indians threw their lances into the houses, and wounded many of the Spaniards. But the Adelantado and Diego Mendez, gathering in haste what men they could find, met them, had a short battle, and drove them off to the forest.

During this fight, a boat which Columbus had sent on shore from the ships arrived to

procure wood and water. It was commanded by Diego Tristan, a captain of one of the caravals. After the Indians had been driven off, Tristan rowed on up the river in search of fresh water, though he was warned by those on shore that he was running into danger.

They were about three miles from the village, when suddenly, from the forest around them, came the sound of yells and trumpets, and fearful whoops, telling that the Indians were upon them. Out from the creeks and coves started many canoes filled with fierce Indians, throwing lances and other weapons against the poor Spaniards.

Tristan himself was soon pierced through the eye and fell dead, and then the Indians closed round the boat, and murdered every man but one, who dived to the bottom and escaped by swimming under water. When this man brought to the settlement the tidings of the murder of all his party, the Spaniards were so filled with terror that they declared they would take the caraval and leave the place entirely.

In spite of all the Adelantado could say to prevent it, they went on board, but the river was again shallow, and they could not get the vessel over the bar. The sea was now so rough that they could not send a boat out to

the ships to beg the Admiral not to leave them, and there they were obliged to remain.

And now their horror was increased by seeing the bodies of poor Tristan and his men come floating down the stream, while flocks of crows and other birds which feed on dead bodies, were whirling around them and fighting and screaming over their prey. And dismal sounds came from the woods of war drums, and the blowing of shells, which told them that the Indians were gathering in great numbers. Don Bartholomew now thought it unsafe to remain in the village, and chose an open spot near the shore, where he made a sort of little fortress of the boat of the caraval and casks and chests, in which the Spaniards shut themselves up, sometimes firing their guns or small cannon, and keeping the Indians at a distance in this way for a time; but they feared that soon powder and provisions would fail, and that they would be left to the mercy of the savages.

In the meantime those on board the ships were suffering great anxiety on account of Diego Tristan and his party, from whom they had heard nothing since they went on shore, some days before, in search of wood and water. No tidings could reach them from the shore, for they had but one boat left, and did

not dare to risk that in so rough a sea, to send it on shore for news of the missing men.

Some of the Indian prisoners who were confined on board one of the vessels, burst out and threw themselves into the sea and swam to shore; those who could not thus make their escape, hanged or strangled themselves, and in the morning all were found dead. The Admiral feared that those who escaped would rouse up the others to new acts of cruelty and murder, and yet he could not send a boat on shore.

At length, one of the sailors said that if the boat could take him to the edge of the surf, where the waves rolled the highest, he would swim to the shore and bring off news from their friends.

He reached the shore and returned to the ship in safety, and from him the Admiral heard of the fate of Tristan and his party, and of all the troubles of those in the settlement; and that the men in the little fortress on the river were building boats to bring them to the ships, as they declared they would remain on that coast no longer.

Columbus now concluded to take all the people on board, as soon as the weather would permit, and give up the settlement for the present. After nine days of tempest and

storm, the wind ceased, the sea became calm, and the Adelantado and his companions were brought safely on board the ships. Everything belonging to them was brought on board also, and only the hull of the caraval remained on shore. Diego Mendez labored faithfully in bringing off the people, and as a reward for all his services, Columbus made him captain of the caraval of poor Diego Tristan.

CHAPTER XXIV.

A Harbor in Jamaica—A Fortress in the Sea—How to get away—Expedition of Mendez—Mendez taken prisoner—Starts once more accompanied by Fiesco—Sufferings of those left at the Harbor—Rebellion of Porras—His attempts to reach Hispaniola—The Eclipse and the use made of it by the Admiral.

WE may be certain that Columbus and all his men, and particularly the party who had last left the shore, were glad to escape from that wretched coast. The ships were shattered, the men feeble, and the provisions failing; Columbus therefore determined to make the best of his way to Hispaniola.

The vessels, however, were driven about hither and thither by winds and currents, and at length were so much injured and the crew so much exhausted, for want of food, that the Admiral at length gave up all hope of reaching Hispaniola, and put into a safe harbor in Jamaica.

The ships were run aground, and fastened together side by side; but they soon filled

with water. Thatched cabins were then made at the prow and stern to protect the men, and the vessels were put in a state of defence, that they might be able to drive off the natives, if they should attack them.

The Indians came crowding to the harbor, bringing provisions; and Columbus took every pains to prevent any offence being given to them. For the present they were provided for, but the question now was how they were ever to get away from that island. His vessels could never sail again; Hispaniola was one hundred and twenty miles away, and there was no chance of any other vessel ever coming to their relief.

The only thing that he could think of now was to send a boat to Hispaniola, and beg that a ship might be sent to take them all back. He knew of no one who would undertake this, whom he would dare to send, except Diego Mendez; and taking him aside he spoke to him thus:

“Diego Mendez, my son, of all those who are here, you and I alone know the great peril in which we are placed. We are few in number and these savage Indians are many, and of changeable and irritable natures. Should any of our people make them angry, they might

throw fire-brands from the shore, and burn us in our straw-thatched cabins. They may tomorrow refuse to bring us provisions, and we have no way to compel them to do so. I have thought of a remedy, if it meets your views. In this canoe which you have purchased, some one may pass over to Hispaniola, and procure a ship, by which we may all be delivered from this great peril. Tell me your opinion of the matter."

"Señor," replied Diego Mendez, "I well know our danger to be greater than it is easy to imagine; but as to passing to Hispaniola in so small a vessel as a canoe, I think it is not merely difficult, but impossible, since it is necessary to traverse a gulf of forty leagues, (one hundred and twenty miles) and between islands where the sea is rough and never quiet: I know not who there is who would venture upon so great a peril."

Columbus said nothing, but Mendez understood plainly from his looks that he himself was the person, that the Admiral intended should go to Hispaniola. He pretended at first to think that the rest of the crew might be jealous, if he were the one always chosen to be put forward in any service of difficulty, and danger, and begged the Admiral to pro-

pose it to the whole crew, and see who would be willing to go.

No one had thought of such a thing as venturing so far in a light open canoe, and all refused to go, when Diego Mendez stepped forward, and with his usual courage declared himself ready to start upon the voyage. Columbus sent by him a letter to the Governor Ovando begging for a ship to take him and his men to Hispaniola; he wrote another letter also to the sovereigns of Spain, which Mendez was to take over to that country, asking of them a ship to take them over to Spain.

All being ready Mendez started in his canoe with one Spaniard and six Indians, and sailed eastward along the coast. Fifteen days passed, and back he came alone in his canoe; he had been taken prisoner by the Indians at the eastern part of the island, and but just escaped with his life.

He was not at all discouraged, however, but offered to start again, if Columbus would send a party of armed men with him, as far as the end of the island. This the Admiral agreed to, and this time a brave man, named Bartholomew Fiesco, accompanied him with another canoe. Mendez and Fiesco had each

six Spaniards and ten Indians under their command. The plan was that when they reached Hispaniola, Mendez was to purchase a ship and send it back for the Admiral, and then set out for Spain to carry the letter to the sovereigns, while Fiesco was to return to Jamaica.

Having placed provisions and water in their canoes they set out; the Adelantado, with a party of men well armed, marching along the shore to protect them. They waited three days at the end of the island, till the weather was calm, and then the two little canoes started off upon the wide deep ocean. Don Bartholomew and his men watched them till they were mere specks upon the water, and then they returned to the harbor.

Months passed away, and there was no tidings of Mendez and Fiesco. The Spaniards who remained with Columbus and his brother, had become feeble and sick, from the climate and food, and were now almost discouraged. They had been watching the sea for days and weeks in hopes of seeing a canoe or a sail, and at length they began to fear that their messengers had perished, and no ship would ever come to bear them from that desolate shore.

The men now began to murmur and com-

plain, and to heap abuse upon the Admiral as the cause of all their troubles, There were two brothers of the name of Porras, to whom Columbus had been very kind, but who like most of those to whom he had shown favor, repaid him with unkindness and ingratitude.

These men went among the people telling them that Columbus had no idea of going back to Spain ; that he had been banished from that country, and was not allowed ever to go back to Hispaniola ; and that he was only keeping them all in Jamaica till his friends could persuade the king and queen to let him return.

He said the only way to leave that island was, to take Indian canoes and try to reach Hispaniola ; as for the Admiral, he was too old and infirm to take such a voyage, and they must leave him behind. By these means he prepared the people to rise against Columbus ; and when all was ready, he entered the cabin where the Admiral was sick in bed ; and complained loudly of his treatment of his followers, in leaving them to perish in that lonely place.

His men were waiting outside with their weapons in their hands, and at a given signal they sprang up shouting and threatening the life of the Admiral. Columbus, ill and feeble,

sprang out of bed and tottered forth to try and quiet them, but was forced back into his cabin by the few friends who remained faithful to him. Don Bartholomew seized his lance, and rushed forth to attack them, but the greater part of the men were against him, and he was at length persuaded by those who remained true to him to retire to the cabin of his brother.

The party of Porras now seized the canoes, which Columbus had bought from the Indians, and thus forty-eight men left the Admiral. Many who were too sick to go, crawled forth from their cabins, and with tears and groans saw them depart. Porras set out along the coast with his canoes, sometimes landing and robbing the Indians, pretending that he was ordered to do so by Columbus.

When he reached the eastern end of the island, he procured several Indians to manage the canoes, and set out across the gulf. They had not rowed many miles when the wind rose, and the waves ran so high, that there was danger of being upset in the heavily laden canoes. They turned for the land and threw many things overboard, but the waves still rolling fearfully, they drew their swords, and forced the poor Indians to leap into the sea.

They were so many miles from land that even the natives could not swim so far with-

out sometimes taking hold of the canoes, to recover breath ; whenever they did this, the cruel Spaniards would stab them, or cut off their hands.

Eighteen of these poor creatures, who had gone to help the Spaniards manage their canoes, were thus killed by them or sunk in the waves. Porras and his men reached the shore safely, and after making one more attempt to reach Hispaniola, without success, they gave up and remained upon the island of Jamaica.

Here they roamed from village to village, seizing upon the provisions of the Indians, and treating them most cruelly; and if the natives complained, they told them to go to the Admiral, who had given them permission to do as they pleased in the island.

Columbus was now left with a few sick and discouraged men; but he did all he could to restore them to health and to keep up their spirits. Now, however, the horrors of starvation were before them, for the Indians would bring them no more food, and they feared to go on shore to procure it.

A bright thought now occurred to the Admiral. From his knowledge of astronomy, he knew that in three days there would be an eclipse of the moon in the early part of

the night. He therefore invited all the principal caciques of the island to come to a great meeting, for he had something to say to them.

When they were all assembled, he told them that he and his followers worshipped a God who lived in the skies, and who took care of the people who obeyed him; that this God was angry with the Indians who refused to bring his children food, and he intended to send great sufferings upon them. In the first place, they would see the moon become dark that very night, and this would be the beginning of their troubles.

The Indians watched the sky that night anxiously, and when they saw the black shadow stealing over the moon, they were in the greatest terror. Seizing what provisions they could find, they hurried to the ships with them, begging the Admiral to pray to his God not to send those sufferings upon them, and they would from that time bring him all that he needed.

Columbus promised to do so, and went into his cabin while the Indians remained howling on shore. He soon came back and said his God had promised to pardon them if they would continue to treat his children kindly, and that as a sign of this, the moon would soon appear again to them.

When the Indians saw the darkness passing away from the moon, they thanked the Admiral for praying to his God for them, and from that time they never forgot to bring food to the Spaniards.

CHAPTER XXV.

A strange short Visit to the Harbor—Offer made by Columbus to Porras—Battle between Porras and Don Bartholomew—Voyage of Mendez and Fiesco—Sufferings of the Indians—"Land!"—Hispaniola—Journey of Mendez—Efforts for Columbus—Delays—Columbus and his Men brought to Hispaniola—Cruelty of Ovando—Fate of the beautiful Anacaona—The last Voyage of Columbus.

EIGHT long months had passed away since the canoes of Mendez and Fiesco had left the island, and not one word had yet been heard of their fate by those they had left behind. The few who were left were beginning to murmur, and some of them were preparing to do as Porras and his men had done, when one day towards dusk, they saw with delight a sail making its way toward the harbor.

But the vessel they were waiting to greet, to their surprise did not approach them, but kept out at sea and sent a small boat on shore. In this came a man of the name of Escobar, one who had been condemned to death for rebellion by Columbus, and pardoned by Bobadilla.

When they saw him, they probably thought he had not come to bring them good tidings.

He merely brought a letter of compliment from Ovando, with a barrel of wine and a side of bacon. The governor said in his letter that he was sorry for the misfortunes of the Admiral, and when he had a large enough vessel in the harbor, he would send for him and his men. Escobar immediately put off with his boat, without waiting to say a word to any of the Spaniards, and remained at some distance till the Admiral had written a letter for him to take to Ovando.

In this letter he told of the horrors of their situation, and begged the governor to send immediately to their relief. As soon as Escobar received it, he returned to his caraval, which set sail immediately and disappeared in the darkness of night.

This strange, short visit caused wonder and fear among the sailors; they thought now that they were left to perish; but Columbus tried to cheer them by telling them that vessels would certainly soon be sent to take them away; though, in his own heart, he believed that Ovando meant to leave them to perish on the island.

He supposed that Escobar had been sent merely to find out if he and his men were yet

living. But he sent word to the rebel party of Porras, that the governor had promised to send ships to relieve them, and that if they would immediately return to obedience, he would give them a free pardon and a passage to Hispaniola.

Porras came to meet the messengers of Columbus, and in reply to his kind offer, he said that they would not return to the wreck, but they would promise to be peaceable and friendly if the Admiral would promise, that if two vessels should arrive they should have one, or if only one should come, they should have half of it; and in the meantime, the Admiral should share with them whatever he had in his possession. Porras added that if these things were not granted them, they would take them by force.

Accordingly, one day he marched his men toward the harbor, to seize upon the stores and provisions in the vessels and also upon the person of the Admiral, having promised his men that he would send him home again in irons.

Columbus was too ill to go out to meet them, but his brother the Adelantado immediately put himself at the head of fifty well-armed men, and started out to fight the rebels. Porras only laughed at this army, and pointed

at them in scorn, telling his men to look and see how puny and pale they were, and that it would be an easy thing to conquer them.

The rebels rushed upon the party of the Adelantado, but they found their match. They were soon conquered, Porras was taken prisoner by the Adelantado and the rest fled. They very soon sent in a very humble letter to the admiral, signed with all their names, begging for pardon, and promising obedience if he would receive them back. Columbus, with his usual kindness, pardoned them, only retaining Porras a prisoner to be tried in Spain.

You would probably like to know what Mendez and Fiesco had been about all this long time since they left for Hispaniola; and we will now go back and give a short account of their voyage. When they paddled away from the eastern end of the island of Jamaica, they continued all day in a direct course; there was no wind, the sun beamed upon them with an intense heat, and the still sea reflected back its rays like a burnished mirror.

The Indians who paddled the canoes, unable to bear the intense heat, would spring over the sides of the canoes into the sea, to cool their bodies, and in their distress they soon drank all the water they had taken for their own supply, and were perishing with thirst. When

their sufferings were such that it seemed as if they could endure no more, the commanders brought out two kegs of water which they had concealed, lest it should be all drunk at once, and gave a mouthful occasionally to each man, by which they were somewhat revived.

They all kept up their courage as well as they could, hoping to reach soon some small island which lay in their way to Hispaniola, where they could find water, and be able to rest. But night came on, and there was no sign of the island, and they feared they had missed it, and would all perish with thirst before they should reach the end of their voyage.

One of the Indians died from his sufferings, and the others lay panting in the bottom of their canoes. Some tried to cool their burning throats by taking sea water in their mouths, but its saltness only increased their thirst. It was hard to see—

“Water, water everywhere,
And not a drop to drink.”

At length the commanders too became entirely exhausted, and feared that none of them would live to reach Hispaniola.

Diego Mendez sat thus almost discouraged, in the evening, watching the rising of the moon, when he noticed that it came up above

a dark mass which appeared like mountains. He quickly gave the glad cry of "land!" and his weary companions started up, and began to work with life and spirit once more. This was, indeed, the little island they had hoped to reach, and when the day dawned, they sprang upon its shore, and gave thanks to God for their deliverance.

This island was but a mass of barren rocks, but in the hollow places there was an abundance of rain water. The Spaniards knowing the danger of taking much water, when much heated, and after having been so long without it, drank sparingly, but the Indians could not be persuaded to take the same caution, but drank till some of them died on the spot, and others became very ill.


They remained all day upon the island feasting upon the shellfish which they found on its shores, and in the evening they set out for Hispaniola, whose mountains could be seen in the distance, and arrived on its western shore, on the fourth day after they had left Jamaica. Fiesco now wished to return to tell the Admiral that Mendez had arrived safely and gone on to San Domingo. But he could not persuade either Spaniards or Indians, to take the voyage again in their canoes.

Here Diego Mendez left them, and taking

six Indians who belonged to the island he set out for San Domingo in his canoe. They had paddled along the coast for more than two hundred miles when they heard that the governor had left San Domingo, and was in the distant province of Xaragua, where as you remember the female cacique Anacaona lived. This was more than a hundred miles across the country from where they were, but no difficulty seemed to be too great for Diego Mendez, if it was necessary to overcome it, in order to serve the Admiral.

He at once left the canoe, and started off alone and on foot, through forests and over mountains, to find the governor, and by him to send relief to Columbus. This was one of the most terrible journeys ever taken by one man in the service of another. He found the governor busily engaged and fighting with the natives, and though he pretended to feel great pity for the situation of Columbus, and promised to send vessels to his relief, yet he put it off from month to month, saying there were no vessels in the harbor large enough to send to Jamaica.

Thus for seven months he kept Diego Mendez anxiously waiting for permission to go to San Domingo to procure the vessels. At last after urging the matter every day, he con-



sented to allow Mendez to set out for that place, and wait for some vessels which were expected. Again Mendez set out on foot through forests where fierce and hostile Indians roved; and it was immediately after he left, that Ovando sent out the caraval commanded by Escobar, to spy out the condition of Columbus and his men.

When Escobar returned, and told what he had seen to Ovando, he concluded that there was no hope of getting rid of the Admiral by leaving him alone upon the island of Jamaica, and that if he wished to avoid the disgrace of having it said that he had neglected Columbus, and left him to perish, he must now send ships to his relief.

People had begun to complain loudly of his treatment of the Admiral, and remarks had been made upon the same subject from the pulpits; besides all this, Mendez had purchased a vessel with money belonging to Columbus, and was about sending it out to him. Ovando saw that it would not do for him to put it off any longer; and at this late hour, he fitted out a caraval and sent it to Jamaica. These two vessels reached the harbor soon after the battle with Porras, and we may imagine with what delight the welcome

sight of approaching sails was greeted by the sick Admiral and his feeble, weary band.

After a year of dismal confinement on the wreck, they were all taken off by these vessels, and after a stormy passage, reached the harbor of San Domingo safely. The feeling of dislike to Columbus seemed now to be forgotten in pity for his troubles; and however the governor might feel, he pretended for a time to be friendly and cordial towards him. He, therefore, attended by the principal inhabitants of the island, went to meet the Admiral, met him with civility, and took him to his house.

It was not long, however, before troubles and jealousies arose between them. Ovando claimed the right to settle the difficulties that had taken place at Jamaica. He began by setting Porras at liberty, and talked of punishing those men who had been true to Columbus, for killing some of the rebels in the fight. This, however, he concluded not to do.

Columbus found much to distress and grieve him in the state of the island, and the sufferings of the poor natives, who had been made to work harder, and had been treated with greater cruelty than ever under Bobadilla. They had been forced to toil in the mines

until many of them had died under the lash, and others had perished from hunger or had killed themselves to escape their miseries.

When some of those who had served out their time were permitted to go to their homes, which were far distant, they could not drag their weary limbs along, but fell down by the side of brooks or under the shade of trees, and died, worn out in the service of the white men, whom they had received so kindly. An old bishop says in his book:

"I have found many dead on the road, others gasping under the trees, and others in the pangs of death, faintly crying, 'Hunger! Hunger!'" In his wars with the Indians, Ovando was exceedingly cruel. If any of them endeavored to defend themselves against the oppressions of the Spaniards, the governor would come upon them with an army, lay waste their whole country with fire and sword, and kill all whom he found, sparing neither age or sex.

But the most horribly cruel act of this wicked man, and which is enough of itself to disgrace his name forever, was his mean and bloody expedition into the beautiful province of Xaragua. There had been one or two quarrels between the people of that province and the Spaniards, who had abused and

oppressed them; and these last, wishing to have the natives punished, sent word to the governor that the whole province was going to rise against the white men, and they would all be put to death.

Ovando, who seemed to delight in deeds of blood and cruelty, set out immediately for that province with four hundred well-armed soldiers, seventy of whom were horsemen, clad in steel. He pretended that he was going on a mere visit of friendship, and to settle these disputes peaceably.

The beautiful Anacaona, who was now cacique of that province, came out to meet Ovando attended by her principal subjects, and a train of young women waving their palm branches, and dancing as they sang their native songs. Not having any idea of the real object of the governor's visit, she had gathered all the principal caciques to do honor to him, and for several days they entertained him with feasts, and games, and dances.

Then Ovando invited Anacaona and her principal subjects to witness the performances of his horsemen in the public square. When they were all assembled, and the square was crowded with Indians, he gave a signal, and the horsemen rushed upon the naked and unarmed natives, cutting them down with

their swords, piercing them with their lances, and killing all in their way, both male and female. More than eighty caciques were together in one of the large houses. This was surrounded by the troops, the caciques were seized and tied to the posts which supported the roof, and cruelly tortured; and then the house was set on fire, and they were all burned to death.

The kind and beautiful Anacaona, who had through everything been the friend of the white people, was carried to San Domingo, where they pretended to give her a trial, and then hanged her like a common criminal. This was the sad fate of her who had been called the Golden Flower of Hayti; and the province of Xaragua, which, as the Spaniards said, they found a perfect paradise, was for six months the scene of horrors which make the blood run cold.

Columbus found that by the cruelty of the Spaniards, the Indians had dwindled away to almost nothing. In a letter to the sovereigns, he says:

"I am informed that since I left this island, six parts out of seven of the natives are dead, all through ill-treatment and cruelty; some by the sword, others by blows and cruel usage,

others through hunger. The greater part have perished in the mountains, whither they had fled, from not being able to bear the labor imposed upon them."

Columbus remained some time in Hispaniola, trying to settle his own business affairs, which were in great confusion; but the constant troubles between him and Ovando caused him to hasten his departure for Spain.

He had the vessel repaired in which he had sailed from Jamaica, and hired another, in which he offered a passage to any of those who had last sailed with him, if they wished to return to Spain. Most of them, however, preferred to remain in San Domingo, and as they were very poor, he supplied them with money from his own purse, giving to those who had joined the rebels as well as to those who had remained true to him.

At length all was ready, and he set sail for Spain; he had hardly left the harbor, however, when a sudden squall carried away the mast of his ship. This obliged him to take refuge in the other vessel with his family, and send back the injured ship. The whole voyage was a stormy one, the Admiral suffering terribly all the time from the gout; and it was two months from the time of sailing when his crazy and shattered vessel reached a harbor

in Spain. Columbus immediately proceeded to Seville, to rest and recover his health after all his dangers, and anxieties, and sufferings.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Poverty of Columbus—Contrasts in his Life—Neglected by Ferdinand—Death of Queen Isabella—Illness of Columbus—His last Request of the King—Last words and Death.

THIS last voyage of Columbus exhausted all his means, and left him very poor. It was said by many that he had made himself rich in the New World, but the following extract from a letter to his son Diego tells a different story.

"I receive nothing of that which is due to me," says he, "but live by borrowing. Little have I profited by twenty years of toils and perils, since at present I did not own a roof in Spain. I have no home but an inn, and for the most times have nothing with which to pay my bill."

He was too ill and too poor to go to court, and all his letters remained unanswered, while he knew that his enemies were busy in spreading stories which were utterly untrue with regard

to him. One kind faithful friend he had at court, who he knew would do all that man could do for him ; this was Diego Mendez.

His letters in which he speaks of his devotion to the sovereigns are very affecting. In one of them he says, "I have served their majesties with as much zeal and diligence as if it had been to gain Paradise, and if I have failed in anything it has been because my knowledge and powers went no further."

This was written by the man who a few years before had been received with such honor by the king and queen ; who had been faithful to them ever since he entered their service, and had opened to their country the way to wealth and vast possessions ; but who, now that he was poor and persecuted by his enemies, was neglected and treated with coldness by those in whose cause he had lost everything.

The good Queen Isabella was lying dangerously ill, having had much family trouble, and lost children and friends by death ; had she been able to listen to his letters, and to act in his behalf, we cannot but feel certain that justice would have been done him. In one of his letters Columbus says : "May it please the Holy Trinity to restore our sovereign queen to health ; for by her will every-

thing be set right which is now in confusion ? While he was writing those words, the lovely queen had closed her eyes in death.

She died in the fifty-fourth year of her age ; the crown had not given ease to her head, nor had the rank and wealth and pomp around her served to cure an aching heart. Deep sadness settled down upon her mind, and death to her was a welcome visitor. This is one of the passages in her will :

“ Let my body be interred in the monastery of San Francisco, in a low sepulchre, with no other monument than a plain stone and an inscription. But I desire and command that if the king, my lord, should choose a sepulchre in any other church or monastery, that my body be carried thither and buried beside the body of his highness ; so that the union we have enjoyed while living, and which through the mercy of God we hope our souls will experience in heaven, may be represented by our bodies on earth.”

Noble and generous queen ! lovely and pious woman ! whose heart was the home of all things pure and gentle ; and whose feelings were too tender to bear the calamities of life, from which even those who wear a crown cannot escape. Had she lived, the fate of Columbus might have been different, and the

lot of her subjects in the New World might have been softened; but now all were left to the mercy of the cold-hearted and jealous Ferdinand, who listened to the representations of enemies alone, while there was no longer a gentle pleading voice at his side to speak of justice and compassion.

Columbus remained all that winter at Seville, ill and suffering. His brother, the Adelantado, who had remained by him in all his troubles, and only left them to attend to his interests, now went to court to labor in his cause, there taking with him Fernando, the younger son of Columbus, then about seventeen.

It was of this son, Fernando, that Columbus spoke in addressing his eldest son, Diego:

"To thy brother, conduct thyself as the elder brother should unto the younger. Thou hast no other, and I praise God that this is such an one as thou dost need. Ten brothers would not be too many for thee. Never have I found a better friend to right or left than my brothers."

The winter passed away in suffering, and the month of May came before Columbus was able to take his journey to court. A few years before, when he returned from the New World with tidings of his discover-

ies, and with curious things from those distant lands, he had been met by crowds and attended in triumph unto the city where the sovereigns were at that time remaining; now sad, weary, and neglected, he stood before the gates of Segovia, more oppressed by sorrow than by sickness.

He was soon made to feel that his most powerful friend was gone; and though Ferdinand received him with an outward show of civility, he saw that there was no real kindness of feeling towards him. For long weary months, he was kept waiting in hopes that his honors and titles would be restored to him. for to these he felt that he had a right; as to the money which was due to him he was willing to leave the king to do as he pleased about it.

But these honors and titles were the very things that Ferdinand was not willing to restore to him, as he feared to give too much authority to a subject; and was jealous lest it should interfere with his own powers. Columbus, now worn down by many troubles, and fatigues, and sicknesses, had not the strength to bear with these new trials of his patience, and was soon stretched on his last bed of sickness, from which he was never more to rise.

And now he made one more appeal to the

king for justice, and this was for his son Diego. Feeling that his own strength was failing, and that he had sailed on his last voyage, he begged that his son might be appointed in his place, • governor over the lands he had discovered.

• “This,” said he, “is a matter which concerns my honor ; as to all the rest do as your majesty thinks proper ; give or withhold as may be most expedient for your interest, and I shall be content. I believe it is the anxiety caused by the delay of this affair which is the principal cause of my ill health.”

From the manner in which this petition was received, he saw that there was no hope of justice from Ferdinand, and these few lines in a letter to a friend show that he had now given up the matter in despair. •

• “It appears,” said he “that his majesty does not think fit to fulfill that which he with the queen, who is now in glory, promised me by word and seal. For me to contend to the contrary would be to contend with the wind. I have done all that I could do. I leave the rest to God, whom I have ever found kind to me in my necessities.”

And now this life of care and trouble, of courage and activity, of hope and disappointment, is drawing to a close. Around the death-bed of this noble and most ill-used man,

stand his son Diego, his friend, Fiesco, who had accompanied Diego Mendez on his voyage from Jamaica to Hispaniola ; and a few faithful followers.

His brother Don Bartholomew not expecting his death so soon is absent making one last effort for him. Everything has been done with his usual calmness and forethought. That which he had to leave, is divided among his sons, and brothers, and given to the support of churches, and to pay lawful debts.

The last ceremonies are over, the last prayers said ; justice having been done on earth, and last words of love given to those around his bedside, and left for the absent ones, he turned his thoughts to Heaven. Listen to the last words of the great-souled Columbus. "Into thy hands, Oh Lord, I commend my spirit."

He died on the 20th of May, 1506, being about 70 years of age. He was at first buried in Spain, but afterwards his body, with that of his son Diego, was removed to San Domingo ; from which place they were again removed to the Cathedral of Havana in the island of Cuba, where they now rest.

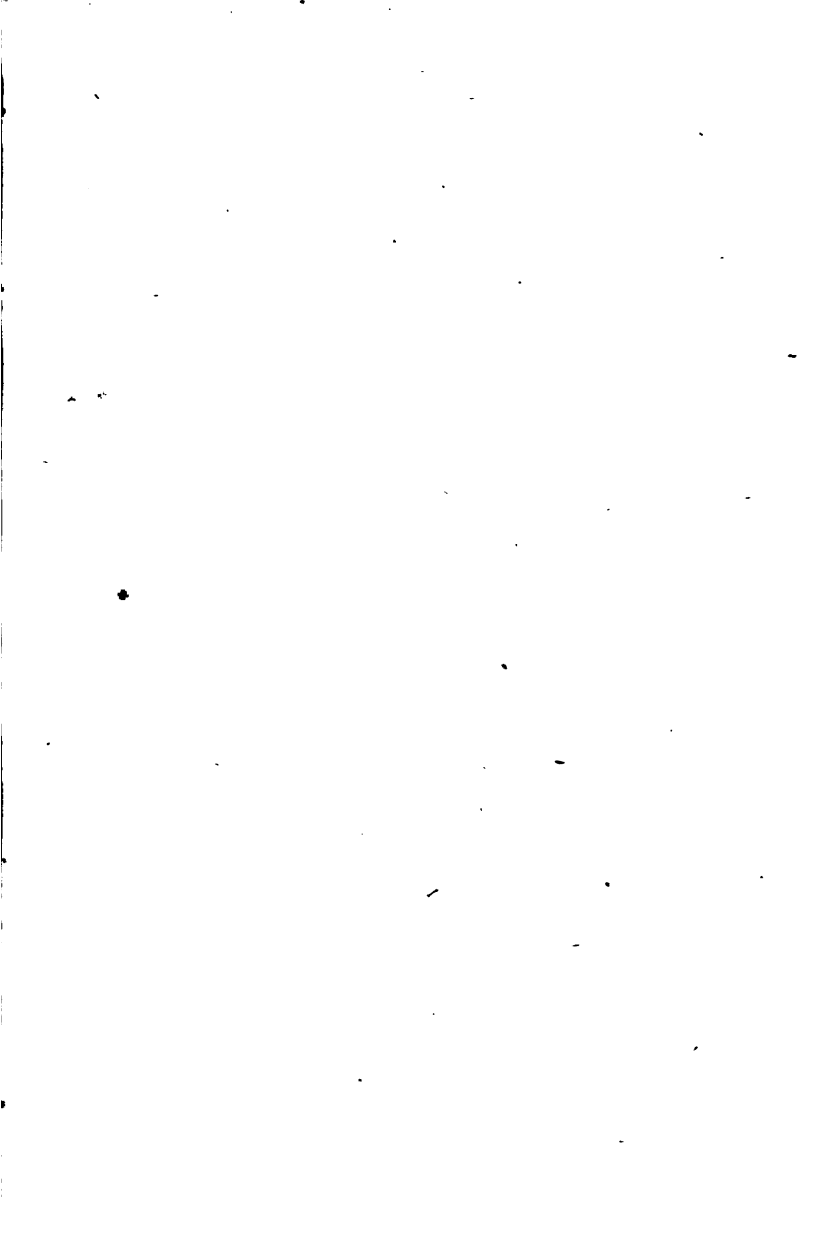
Columbus died never dreaming that he had given to the world a vast continent equal in extent to the Old World he had left. The

glory which should have been his has in part been given to another, inasmuch as this vast country has been called by the name of one who followed in the track of the great discoverer. We should have been better pleased had the whole country instead of one small portion of it in South America, been given the name of Columbia.

Columbus was anxious that the rank and honors which he felt were his by right, should be secured to him and his children. These were denied him; but how would it have cheered his noble heart in those last sad months in Spain, had he known what vast empires would one day rise in that New World he had discovered, and that generation after generation there, down to the present time, and on to future ages, would be taught to revere and honor as it deserves the name of CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

THE END.





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